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Conservative 1992: “The Best Future for Britain”

Chapter: Taking Responsibility for Britain

### **Taking Responsibility for Britain**

The world has been transformed in recent years. Communism has collapsed in Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union has fallen apart. Everywhere Socialism is in retreat and democracy, human rights and market economics are advancing. The authority of the UN has been bolstered and Iraqi aggression seen off. Talks are under way in the Middle East and South Africa. It is a time of great opportunity, but also of new dangers.

Britain needs firm leadership at this time. We must be represented by a team of quality and experience. A team which can help shape the world for the next century. A Conservative team.

Under the Conservatives, Britain has regained her rightful influence in the world. We have stood up for the values our country has always represented. We have defended Britain's interests with vigour and with success.

Commented [MOU1]: Other

Commented [MOU2]: LI

Commented [MOU3]: GP

The respect with which Britain is regarded in the world has rarely been higher. We play a central part in world affairs as a member of the European Community, NATO, the Commonwealth and the Group of 7 leading industrial countries, and as a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council. No other country holds all these positions.

Commented [MOU4]: Other

We are taking a leading role in recasting all the main international institutions to which we belong: the United Nations, the European Community, NATO, and the Commonwealth. The Prime Minister convened the first ever meeting of the UN Security Council at Heads of Government level. Between now and the end of 1992 there will be seven Summits where issues of critical importance to our future will be determined: two EC Councils, at Lisbon and Edinburgh, the G7 Summit, the CSCE Summit, EC Summits with the US and Japan, and the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro. Britain will be at the centre of these negotiations.

Commented [MOU5]: TL

Commented [MOU6]: TL

### **The Need for Leadership**

The end of the Cold War has enabled the UN to act with new unity and authority. Under the authority of the UN, British forces played a leading and courageous part in the Gulf War and the liberation of Kuwait. At the Prime Minister's instigation, the UN also backed the operation to protect the Kurds.

Commented [MOU7]: SQP

Commented [MOU8]: LI

Britain has led the world in helping the reforms in the former Soviet Union. The Prime Minister gave full and immediate support to President Yeltsin in the August coup attempt, and was the first Western leader to visit Moscow after the coup failed. Britain has led the way in building up relations with the republics of the new Commonwealth of Independent States. We have provided valuable economic and humanitarian aid to ease the transition to a market economy.

Commented [MOU9]: LI

Commented [MOU10]: Other

Commented [MOU11]: Other

Commented [MOU12]: GLTS

- We will support an enhanced role for the UN in peace-keeping and combating state-sponsored terrorism.
- We are determined that Iraq should comply with the terms of the Gulf War cease-fire agreement, and in particular that it should co-operate with the UN in dismantling its weapons of mass destruction.
- We support early Russian membership of the IMF and World Bank, as well as a stabilisation fund for the rouble.
- We are co-operating with our partners to provide urgent help to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to upgrade the safety of their nuclear power stations.
- We strongly support the peace process in the Middle East. The outcome of the talks must safeguard the security of Israel and achieve self-determination for the people of the occupied territories.
- We will safeguard the prosperity of Hong Kong, nurture democratic institutions and work with the Chinese Government within the terms of the Joint Declaration.
- We seek a solution to the dispute which has divided Cyprus since 1974. A settlement must recognise that Cyprus is indivisible and that the rights of both communities must be assured. We will support the UN's efforts to secure a fair and lasting solution.
- The problems of Kashmir cannot be resolved by violence. We urge both India and Pakistan to address and resolve the issue, and we stand ready to help.

Commented [MOU13]: SQP

Commented [MOU14]: SQP

Commented [MOU15]: GLTS

Commented [MOU16]: TL

Commented [MOU17]: GP

Commented [MOU18]: GP

Commented [MOU19]: LI

Commented [MOU20]: GP

Commented [MOU21]: GP

Commented [MOU22]: SQP

Commented [MOU23]: GP

## Our Influence for Good

All over the world countries are turning to democracy and free markets. Last October in Harare, the Commonwealth took on a new role as a promoter of democracy the rule of law, and respect for individual freedoms. Already the Commonwealth is monitoring elections to ensure that they are free and fair. Britain is taking the lead in encouraging these trends.

Commented [MOU24]: LC

We give substantial aid to the relief of poverty and to help the struggling economies of the developing world. Our aid programme next year (excluding aid to Eastern Europe and the CIS) will reach £1,800 million. Britain also makes more direct private investment in the developing world than any other EC country - some £2,400 million in 1989. We are urging the international community to take decisive action on debt relief, the liberalisation of world trade and support for good government.

Commented [MOU25]: TL (dev)

Commented [MOU26]: TL (dev)

Commented [MOU27]: GTS

Commented [MOU28]: LI

We continue to accept the long-term UN target for aid of 0.7 per cent of GNP, although we cannot set a timetable for its achievement. The quality of Britain's overseas aid programme is second to none. It is well targeted and highly effective. Eighty per cent of our bilateral aid goes to the poorest countries. New aid to the poorest is given as grants, not loans.

Commented [MOU29]: TL (dev)

We are supporting projects designed to build efficient institutions and accountable government. We are helping to improve public administration and the legal system in a number of countries.

Commented [MOU30]: LI

The English language is one of our nation's greatest assets - culturally politically and commercially. The BBC World Service has unrivalled standing around the globe. The British Council acts as a cultural ambassador for Britain and for the English language.

- We will use overseas aid to promote good government, sensible economic policies, the rooting out of corruption, and - crucially - respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- We will press creditor countries to accept the Prime Minister's proposal - the 'Trinidad Terms' - for a two-thirds reduction in the official debt of the poorest countries.
- We will promote the development of multi-party systems through the new Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Commented [MOU31]: LI

Commented [MOU32]: TL (eco)

Commented [MOU33]: LI

Commented [MOU34]: TL (dev)

Commented [MOU35]: LI

- We will promote the English language by strengthening both the British Council and the BBC World Service. We will encourage both to become more entrepreneurial in order to finance their activities in developing markets.

Commented [MOU36]: Other

### The Risks We Face Now

The collapse of the old Soviet Union has dramatically vindicated Conservative defence policy. We have always put the security of our country first. We have kept the peace by staying strong.

Commented [MOU37]: GP

Today the threat of a massive surprise attack from Eastern Europe has gone. But we still face grave risks to our security. We cannot drop our guard. Under the Conservatives, Britain will never do so.

Commented [MOU38]: GP

Within the former Soviet Union there remains a huge military force. Democracy and the rule of law are yet to be firmly established. Control over these armed forces and the massive nuclear capability is uncertain. The events in Yugoslavia show what can happen when Communism collapses in disorder.

Increasingly threats come from outside Europe - as we saw so clearly in the Gulf. Many more countries are acquiring large stocks of modern arms. Some are trying to obtain nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Britain must be able to respond to any unexpected danger.

Commented [MOU39]: GP

The Conservatives are the only party who recognise both the opportunities and the threats of the new world.

For over forty years, our security has been based firmly on NATO, the most successful defensive alliance ever. We will work with our allies to ensure that NATO remains the cornerstone of our defence. Britain will command a new NATO Rapid Reaction Corps ready to deploy quickly to counter any sudden threat. As Europeans, we must accept a greater role in safeguarding the peace in our continent.

Commented [MOU40]: FAUS

We will promote arms control and reduction initiatives. On Britain's initiative, the UN is establishing a register of arms transfers in order to monitor any dangerous arsenals of weapons.

Commented [MOU41]: TL (arms)

Britain has always been strongly opposed to nuclear proliferation. We will back an enhanced role for the International Atomic Energy Agency in inspecting nuclear sites and for the UN Security Council in acting against those nations which break their non-proliferation obligations.

Commented [MOU42]: TL (arms)

- We will work to strengthen the Western European Union as the European pillar of NATO. We will press for a European reaction force.
- We will intensify the co-ordination of security policies within the Twelve.
- We will work through the CSCE to safeguard the security of Europe.
- We will support a comprehensive and verifiable ban on chemical weapons, and further controls on the export of items which could be used in making biological weapons.
- We will help Russia in her efforts to dismantle nuclear weapons.

Commented [MOU43]: FAUS

Commented [MOU44]: FAUS

Commented [MOU45]: RPEU

Commented [MOU46]: TL (arms)

Commented [MOU47]: TL (arms)

### Our Armed Forces

Only the Conservatives can be trusted to maintain the quality and capability of our Armed Forces. We are proud of the skill, courage and professionalism which they displayed in the Gulf and which they show daily in Northern Ireland.

We are the only party unambiguously committed to the preservation and modernisation of our independent nuclear deterrent.

Commented [MOU48]: GP

Our defence would be unsafe in the hands of the opposition parties. Labour have opposed our defence policies at every turn. They have twisted and turned in their attitude to our nuclear deterrent. They would devastate our conventional forces by cuts of at least 27 per cent, which would lead to huge job losses in the defence industries.

The Liberal Democrats would cause even more damage to Britain's defences. Their aim is to cut our defence spending by half by the end of the decade.



We insist that our forces have the modern, effective equipment that they need. The Gulf War showed that the Services must have the latest technology to give them maximum flexibility and mobility. That is why we have ordered the new Challenger II tank for the Army, the Merlin helicopter for the Navy, the ASRAAM air defence missile for the RAF and a wide range of other new equipment for our Forces.

Commented [MOU49]: GP

Our reappraisal of Britain's defence needs will result in a major restructuring of our Armed Forces to take account of the changing world situation. In future, our Forces will be smaller, but better equipped. Our Services deserve the excellent pay and conditions which we have secured for them and will maintain.

Commented [MOU50]: GP

- We will complete the deployment of the next generation of Britain's minimum nuclear deterrent. We will order and complete the fourth Trident submarine.
- We will ensure the Forces have the best and most modern equipment.
- We will improve the quality and management of service housing and help those in the Forces save towards buying a home of their own.
- The Reserves will play an even more important role and we will introduce legislation to allow their more flexible use.

Commented [MOU51]: GP

Commented [MOU52]: GP

### The European Community

The Conservatives have been the party of Britain in Europe for 30 years. We have argued when argument was necessary; but we have not wavered nor changed our views. We have ensured that Britain is at the heart of Europe; a strong and respected partner.

Commented [MOU53]: RPEU

Commented [MOU54]: RPEU

We have played a decisive part in the development of the Community over the past decade. It was a British initiative which launched the Single Market programme and our insistence which reformed the Community's finances. Britain has promoted co-operation on foreign policy and in combating terrorism. Britain has also persuaded our partners to welcome new countries who apply for Community membership.

Commented [MOU55]: RPEU

The Maastricht Treaty was a success both for Britain and for the rest of Europe. British proposals helped to shape the key provisions of the Treaty including those strengthening the enforcement of Community law defence, subsidiarity and law and order. But Britain refused to accept the damaging Social Chapter proposed by other Europeans, and it was excluded from the Maastricht treaty.

Commented [MOU56]: RPEU

Commented [MOU57]: ISOL

All Member States must live up to their obligations under Community law. At Maastricht, we secured agreement that the European Court will be able to fine any Member State which fails to do so.

Commented [MOU58]: RPEU

- We will work closely with our partners in foreign policy and in the war on international crime.
- We will continue to resist changes to the Treaty of Rome that would damage British business.
- We will resist Commission initiatives which run counter to the principle that issues should be dealt with on a national basis wherever possible.
- Britain is a great trading nation. We prosper through the maintenance of an open trading system. We will work for a successful outcome to the GATT negotiations.
- We will redouble our efforts to reform the Common Agricultural Policy and will stoutly defend the interests of British farmers and consumers.
- We will insist on more effective control over Community spending and will resist pressure to extend Community competence to new areas.
- We will work to strengthen the external frontiers of the Community whilst maintaining the checks needed at our own borders against illegal immigration, drugs, terrorism and disease.

Commented [MOU59]: RPEU

Commented [MOU60]: Other

Commented [MOU61]: RPEU (scep)

Commented [MOU62]: GLTS

Commented [MOU63]: RPEU (scep)

Commented [MOU64]: RPEU

Commented [MOU65]: ISOL

### The British Presidency

In the second half of 1992 Britain will take the Chair of the Council of Ministers. The British Presidency comes at a turning point in the Community's history. It gives us the opportunity to shape the direction of the Community and to establish its priorities. We shall use it to promote our vision of an outward looking Community based on free enterprise.

Commented [MOU66]: GLTS

Our Presidency will reach its climax at the Edinburgh meeting of the European Council, which we will hold in the historic palace of Holyrood House. While the attention of Europe is focused on Edinburgh, the strength of our Union will be visible to all.

Our priorities will be:

- To start negotiations with those EFTA countries who want to join the Community so that they can join by 1995.
- To build on the EC's Association Agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland so that we can welcome them to full membership by the year 2000.
- To conclude EC trade and co-operation agreements with the main republics of the former Soviet Union.
- To complete the single market and extend it to the seven countries of EFTA - Over half our trade is with the rest of the Community. The single market will create an open market of 350 million customers for British goods and services. To complete the single market, we shall aim to:
  - open up the market for life insurance to free competition;
  - liberalise air travel to bring down air fares in Europe closer to those in America;
  - free up the shipping and road transport markets so that British operators can carry freely within the EC;
  - increase competition in the European energy sector.
- We will provide guidance and help to any British company encountering a trade barrier illegal under European law.
- We will press for progress on the environment, including the Fifth Environment Action Programme.
- We will chair the negotiations on the future spending priorities of the Community to ensure value for money. We will safeguard the abatement negotiated by Mrs Thatcher which has so far brought some £12,000 million in budget rebates to Britain.

Commented [MOU67]: RPEU

Commented [MOU68]: RPEU

Commented [MOU69]: RPEU

Commented [MOU70]: RPEU

Commented [MOU71]: GLTS

Commented [MOU72]: GTS

Commented [MOU73]: TL (enviro)

Labour 1992: "It's time to get Britain working again"

### Chapter: Britain in a new world

We need a new government to grasp new opportunities. A Labour government ready to exploit Britain's unique, interlinking membership of the United Nations Security Council, NATO, the Commonwealth, the European Community and the G7.

Commented [MOU74]: Other

#### It's a new chance to enhance peace in the world

Labour, which in opposition joined our NATO allies in rejecting the Conservative government's cold war nostalgia, will in government partner the United States in negotiating to reduce the world's stocks of nuclear weapons. We shall seek to involve the four former Soviet nuclear republics, together with France and China. Until elimination of those stocks is achieved, Labour will retain Britain's nuclear capability, with the number of warheads no greater than the present total.

Commented [MOU75]: TL (arms)

Commented [MOU76]: GP

With the increase in major nuclear powers from five to eight, proliferation is a dangerous reality and may become an even greater threat to peace and stability. The Tory government contributed to proliferation when it permitted the supply of nuclear weapons material to Saddam Hussein. The Labour government will work in the United Nations for a strengthened nuclear non-proliferation treaty, backed by meaningful sanctions and by a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. We will in addition work for a global ban on chemical and biological weapons and stronger controls to prevent proliferation of ballistic missiles. Meanwhile, we will join Russia in ending nuclear tests.

Commented [MOU77]: TL (arms)

We will actively support the peace-making role of the UN - for example, in Cambodia and Somalia - and work for a permanent United Nations peace-keeping force.

Commented [MOU78]: SQP

#### It's a new chance to solve long-running disputes

The Labour government will work in the United Nations and the European Community to enhance peace prospects in the Middle East. Our aims are security for Israel and self-determination for the Palestinians. There must be strict control on arms sales to the region.

Commented [MOU79]: GP

Commented [MOU80]: TL (arms)

Labour will work in the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the European Community and NATO to help bring about the peaceful reunification of Cyprus, on the federal basis advocated by the sovereign government of Cyprus. The Labour government will make itself available to our friends in India and Pakistan to assist in achieving a negotiated solution to the problem of Kashmir that is acceptable to all the people of Kashmir - Moslems, Hindus and Buddhists.

Commented [MOU81]: GP

We will, as a matter of urgency, discuss with Hong Kong's representatives what measures may best enhance democracy and confidence during Britain's five remaining years of responsibility for the colony.

Commented [MOU82]: LJ

### **It's a new chance to provide genuine security for Britain**

As the party which took Britain into NATO, Labour will base its defence policies on UK membership of the alliance. We will provide whatever resources are needed for effective defence for our country, providing the necessary level of forces with the appropriate equipment and weapons.

Commented [MOU83]: FAUS

Commented [MOU84]: GP

Unlike the Tories, we recognise that disarmament negotiations and technological change can bring about problems for our defence industries. Nearly 100,000 jobs have already been lost during the past two years and 123,000 more are in danger.

Selling more arms to poor countries is not an acceptable or effective way of maintaining Britain's defence industries. We will stop sales to countries which might use them for internal repression or international aggression.

Commented [MOU85]: TL  
(arms)

The Labour government will set up a Defence Diversification Agency to assist workers, communities and companies affected by change. The agency will ensure that resources made available by reductions in defence spending - reductions already planned by the Conservative government - are used in the first instance for rebuilding and investing in our manufacturing base. From the fruits of this investment can stem finance for health and the social services.

### **It's a new chance for a new Europe**

The Labour government will promote Britain out of the European second division into which our country has been relegated by the Tories. Our first chance will be the United Kingdom's six-months' presidency of the Community, starting on 1 July. We shall use that presidency to end the Tories' opt-out from the Social Chapter, so that the British people can benefit from European safeguards. We will also use our presidency to help ensure that poorer countries are not disadvantaged as a result of the Single Market.

Commented [MOU86]: RPEU

Commented [MOU87]: RPEU

Commented [MOU88]: TL (eco)

We shall play an active part in negotiations on Economic and Monetary Union. We shall fight for Britain's interests, working for Europe-wide policies to fight unemployment and to enhance regional and structural industrial policy. The elected finance ministers of the different countries must become the effective political counterpart to the central bank whose headquarters should be in Britain.

Commented [MOU89]: RPEU

As part of the evolving role of the regions of Europe, we will establish a Scottish representative office in Brussels and seek appropriate representation for the Scottish Parliament in European institutions. We shall seek fundamental changes in the wasteful Common Agricultural Policy. Savings can help finance other Community projects.

We shall make the widening of the Community a priority, and shall advocate speedy admission for Austria, Sweden, Finland and Cyprus, whose membership applications have been or are about to be lodged. We shall seek to create conditions in which, at the appropriate time, the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe can join the Community.

Commented [MOU90]: RPEU

### **It's a new chance for human rights**

Labour will set up a Human Rights Division in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and require all Britain's diplomatic posts abroad to appoint an officer to monitor human rights. There will be an annual report to Parliament. Decisions on economic aid and arms sales will be linked to human rights records.

Commented [MOU91]: LI

### **It's a new chance to win friends abroad**

Labour will end Tory government meddling in the valuable work of the British Council. Within carefully controlled costings, Labour will consider new scope for the BBC World Service, praised by listeners such as Terry Waite and Mikhail Gorbachev, and for the BBC's World Service Television Service.

Commented [MOU92]: Other

### **It's a new chance to fight world hunger and poverty**

Under the Tories, Britain's aid budget has been cut to its lowest ever. The Labour government will aim to meet the United Nations aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP within five years - the lifetime of a full Parliament. Labour will establish a separate Department of State for International development, whose Minister will be in the Cabinet.

Commented [MOU93]: TL (dev)

Tackling poverty will be the top priority of our aid programme. We will make aid more effective, work more closely with non-governmental agencies, put women at the heart of our programme and, in co-ordination with other donors, reduce the share of tied aid. Labour will promote environmentally sustainable development and encourage new approaches to reduce Third World debt. We will restore funding for development education in the UK.

Commented [MOU94]: TL (dev)

We will promote greater and fairer trade for poor countries, to enable their economies to grow and diversify. UN and European Community action to help the world's poor must become more effective. Labour will take Britain back into UNESCO.

Commented [MOU95]: TL (eco)

Commented [MOU96]: SQP

The Labour government will work within the G7 and the European Community to win support for a New Marshall Plan to assist the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the ex-Soviet Union. Instability in those countries, caused by shortages and discontent, could be as great a threat to world peace as the armed communism that has now disappeared.

Commented [MOU97]: TL (dev)

### **It's a new chance for Britain in the Commonwealth**

The Tories have regarded the Commonwealth as a wearisome obligation. Labour believes that this unique inter-racial and inter-hemispheric organization can play a central role in fighting racism, hunger and human rights violations. We shall play an active part in the Commonwealth and join the South Africa Committee of Foreign Ministers which the Tories have boycotted.

Commented [MOU98]: LC

### **It's a new chance to safeguard the environment**

The Tories have been laggardly and reluctant in international moves to protect our planet's environment. Labour will set the pace in pressing for international action to safeguard the ozone layer, to combat acid rain, to tackle the problem of global warming, to face up to the environmental needs of the poorest people of the world. We will scrap the Tory government's opt-out on European Community environmental protection measures and deadlines. Labour will adamantly oppose any attempts to permit commercial exploitation of the virgin continent of Antarctica.

Commented [MOU99]: TL (enviro)



Liberal Democrat 1992: “Changing Britain for Good”

## Chapter 5: Britain's Partners: European Partnership for the New Century

Liberal Democrats will take decisive steps towards a fully integrated, federal and democratic European Community. We believe that by sharing sovereignty and pooling power, Britain and its partners will be better able to achieve common goals for the economy, the environment, society and security than by acting alone. Our aim is to create a citizens' Europe in which power lies as close to the citizen as possible.

Commented [MOU100]: RPEU

### **Making Britain's European Presidency Work**

Very few of the proposals that we have set out in the preceding sections will be successful unless Britain is prepared to work in partnership within the Community. Following Maastricht, yet again Britain risks being left behind while the rest of Europe moves on.

Liberal Democrats want Britain to play a full role in creating a dynamic and democratic Europe. We will use Britain's six-month tenure of the Presidency of the Community's Council of Ministers to make a start on the real tasks that lie ahead: building a prosperous and integrated economy; correcting the democratic deficit, making Europe work for its citizens, not its institutions; widening the Community's membership; and helping to create a peaceful and stable new world order. We cannot expect Britain to influence the direction the Community takes in the next decade unless it is a full and enthusiastic member.

Commented [MOU101]: RPEU

Our vision of the new Europe is of a federal community, where power is exercised at the lowest level consistent with good government. For us, federalism means decentralisation: passing powers down more than passing them up. The creation of Scottish, Welsh and English regional Parliaments therefore goes hand in hand with the promotion of more European cooperation and partnership, ensuring access to power for individuals and their communities right across Europe.

Commented [MOU102]: RPEU

### **Building a Citizen's Europe**

January 1993 will bring the single market. Economic and monetary union will follow by the end of the decade. Yet the Community is still too much an organisation for businessmen and

bureaucrats instead of citizens and communities. We want to mould Europe's future in the interests of Europe's people. Our priorities are:

- Economic and monetary union including the establishment of an independent European Central Bank and a single European currency. We will renounce the Conservatives' 'opt-out' clause and accept the timetable for EMU.
- Cooperation in research and innovation. We will encourage further collaboration within the EC on major scientific projects and the development of new technologies such as telecommunications, information technology and environmentally sustainable innovations.
- Action on the environment. Our environmental goals cannot be successfully achieved unless action is taken across the Community. The proposed European Environmental Agency must be established, a European energy policy drawn up and environmental subsidies and penalties applied Community-wide.
- An active regional and social policy. The single market and economic and monetary union will expose regions and firms to greater competition. This will be beneficial in the long run, but the EC must assist in the transitional period. We will renounce Britain's social chapter 'opt-out' and argue for a more flexible framework of social policy across the Community. The EC should set down minimum standards of health and safety and employee rights, leaving national governments and enterprises to decide how to meet them, subject ultimately to the judgement of the courts.
- Fundamental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. We will ease the transition from the present wasteful and inefficient price support mechanism to market prices and direct support for farmers' incomes to achieve environmental and social goals, to be funded by savings made from the present intervention payment system.

Commented [MOU103]: RPEU

Commented [MOU104]: RPEU

Commented [MOU105]: TL  
(enviro)

Commented [MOU106]: TL  
(enviro)

### **Creating a New Democracy in Europe**

The Community's structure gives far too much weight to the Council of Ministers at the expense of the European Parliament, and, most importantly, of the individual citizen. Further moves to European union, and enlargement, must depend on the institutions of the EC becoming truly democratic. We will:

- Set out the rights of the European citizen. We will work for a clear definition of the rights of the European citizen, and insist that these are common to all Community nationals. This must include common voting rights at local, national and European levels.
- Increase the democratic powers of the European Parliament. We will ensure that the Parliament becomes an effective partner with the Council in law-making, exercising in full the power of 'co-decision'.
- Introduce fair votes for the 1994 British elections to the European Parliament. The British citizen must no longer be denied the fair voting systems enjoyed by the citizens of every other European country.
- Make the Commission more accountable. The Parliament must have the power to confirm or deny the Council's nominee as President of the Commission, and then to approve or not the President's choice of Commissioners - and subsequently to sack them if necessary. We welcome the provisions of the Maastricht Treaty as a first step.
- Increase democracy and accountability in the Council of Ministers. We will argue to extend majority voting in the Council to cover all areas of Community policy other than constitutional and crucial security matters. When passing laws, the Council should meet in public.
- Improve national scrutiny of Ministers' actions in Europe. We will create a new Europe Committee of the House of Commons, and give our reformed House of Lords a special role in scrutinising developments in the Community.
- Prepare for Community enlargement, welcoming EFTA members and, when they are ready, the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. A Community with more members requires reformed and dynamic institutions.
- Further moves to European Union, and enlargement, must depend on the institutions of the European Community becoming truly democratic.

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### **Sharing Security; Working for Peace**

The Gulf War and its aftermath have shown the crucial need for stronger and more effective world institutions capable of upholding international law and enforcing respect for human rights. Britain must ensure that the Community plays a pivotal role in the construction of a new security order in Europe, following the democratisation of Eastern and Central Europe. New initiatives for

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disarmament and for sharing security burdens will enable further reductions in levels of armaments to be made without endangering security. On the global stage, a stronger United Nations will be needed to underpin cooperation in tackling the world's problems. We will:

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- Develop common European Community foreign and security policies. This will include a common approach to defence procurement and the gradual integration of Community members' armed forces under a joint military command. The burden of collective security in Western Europe should be shared more equally; we will press for contributions from all nations to the costs of joint forces such as NATO's proposed Rapid Reaction Force - of which Britain will provide almost half.
- Promote democracy and reform in Eastern and Central Europe by coordinating generous economic assistance to countries introducing democracy, guaranteeing human rights and reforming their economies.
- Assist the peaceful evolution of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the former USSR. We will help not just with food and financial aid and technical assistance, but also with the provision of military resources to shift food and supplies, and with scientific assistance to dismantle nuclear weapons.
- Develop a pan-European security framework. We will encourage the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to develop monitoring, verification and mediation duties within the continent. We will press for NATO to guarantee the borders of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary and to enter into talks with other governments in the region for similar guarantees.
- Instigate a comprehensive review of UK defence policy which will be dictated by a rigorous analysis of defence needs rather than by fixed monetary targets. The Review will cover the continuing need for contributions to collective security, the value of Britain's remaining extra-European commitments, and the potential for increasing our contribution to UN peacekeeping missions. Given the present hopeful international situation, we believe that further reductions in levels of armaments will be able to be made without in any way endangering security. Since the review will set out the framework for defence policy for years to come, we will halt any defence cut, and any order for a new weapons system, which might prejudice its outcome.

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- Establish an Arms Conversion Agency to help arms manufacturers to diversify and convert out of the defence field, funded by savings made in the defence budget. Our proposed regional development agencies will also provide help to areas particularly affected. We will reduce spending on military research and development, and shift the resources into the civilian sector.
- Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. We believe that the UK needs to retain its independent nuclear deterrent, but that the escalation of firepower represented by the scale of the Trident replacement for Polaris is unnecessary and unhelpful. We will ensure that the total number of warheads on the four-boat Trident system is limited to no more than that currently deployed on the Polaris system, and our Defence Review will also examine the possibilities of future European cooperation in the provision of a deterrent force. We reject the Government's proposed replacement of British free-fall nuclear bombs with air-to-surface missiles.
- Proposed new disarmament initiatives covering all categories of conventional and nuclear weapons. These will aim to eliminate non-strategic nuclear weapons from Europe, and to reduce the strategic weapons possessed by the US, the former Soviet Union, Britain, France and China - a vital step towards the day when individual nations' possession of nuclear deterrents ceases to be necessary.
- Act against the arms trade. Together with our Community partners, we will establish a register of all international arms sales, eventually to become a UN register. We will place a total embargo on arms sales to regimes which violate human rights, and work for further global agreements among suppliers to control arms sales and technology transfer. We will close the Defence Export Services Organisation and ensure that overseas sales are not linked in any way to arms purchases.
- Make the United Nations more effective. The UN Security Council should take a proactive role in peace-keeping before confrontation develops into conflict. We will work with our Community partners to ensure that funds are available for maintaining peace and security. The UN Military Staff Committee should be reinstated and a permanent peacekeeping force established, with member states contributing contingents on an annual basis. Because of the need to assign British forces to this and to European policing and disaster roles (on

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top of their present commitments), more general-purpose infantry battalions will be required than the number currently planned by the Conservative Government.

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## Developing Global Prosperity

A secure, democratic and peaceful world can never be created while so much of the globe remains so desperately poor. Britain must play its part in developing prosperity, protecting the world environment, eradicating poverty, famine and disease, and promoting human rights and international cooperation. This will include:

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- Increasing overseas aid to reach the UN target of 0.7% of GNP over five years. We will increase aid especially to democratic countries carrying out policies which benefit the poorest, are environmentally sustainable and respect human rights. We will raise the proportion of aid given as grants instead of loans and place greater emphasis on supporting small-scale, community-based, labour-intensive projects. We will promote closer European cooperation, to make the best use of national and Community aid, and avoid wasteful duplication. We will re-join UNESCO.
- Ending the commercialisation of aid which the current Government has practised and which substantially reduces its value to the world's poorest. We will reduce the proportion of UK aid tied to the purchase of UK goods and services and ensure that help to British exports is solely a function of the Department of Trade and Industry, rather than the ODA.
- Encouraging environmentally sustainable development. This includes the transfer of appropriate technology, the development of sustainable agriculture and forestry, sustainable use policies for the tropical rain forests and projects to prevent desertification, and the promotion of energy conservation and renewable energy schemes. We will provide technical help to develop methods of resource accounting and environmental and ensure that measures of sustainability are incorporated in decisions on development projects and programmes.
- Urgent action to tackle the growth in the world's population. Having doubled in the past fifty years to five billion, the world's population is expected to increase by a further one billion in the 1990s alone. We will give priority to support for family-planning programmes, education and employment opportunities for women, and basic provision for old age.

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- Reform of the world trading and financial systems. We see the successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of the GATT world trade talks as an urgent priority. Global prosperity also requires the reversal of the net flow of resources from the global South. We will press the EC to coordinate international action to resolve the debt crisis, including reducing government-to-government debt, introducing regulatory and tax regimes to encourage commercial banks to reduce or write off debt, extending eligibility to IMF and World Bank loans, and encouraging, where appropriate, debt for development and debt for environment swaps. We will press for the progressive reduction of all tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, and in particular the removal of unfair trading barriers against developing countries.

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Conservative 1997: “You Can Only Be Sure with the Conservatives”

Chapter 9: Europe and the World

Britain is a world leader as well as a European nation. Our economic strength, our history and our language make us a global trading nation with links right around the world. Only the United Kingdom is a member of the European Union, the United Nations Security Council, the Commonwealth, NATO and the Group of Seven leading industrial nations. In the Gulf, Bosnia, Cyprus and Northern Iraq, John Major has shown how our nation can contribute to world peace.

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We will continue to work with international partners to secure peace and stability in areas of tension such as former Yugoslavia; in Kashmir; in Cyprus; and in the Middle East. We will promote reform of the United Nations to make it a more effective organisation for securing international stability. Britain will continue to deploy our outstanding Armed Forces as peacekeepers under the United Nations. And we will support the aspirations of the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and others to join the European Union and NATO.

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After the transfer of Hong Kong, we will work under the terms of the Joint Declaration to help sustain the prosperity and way of life of the people of Hong Kong and build on the substantial British interests that will remain.

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We will continue to support the Commonwealth, our unique global network, to encourage the spread of democracy; as set out in the Harare Declaration. We will focus our aid programme to encourage sustainable development in countries that are growing towards self-sufficiency under democratic government. We have taken the lead in alleviating the burden of debt for the world's poorest countries. We also have significant flows of private investment to developing economies. We are more than achieving the long-term UN target of 1% of GDP for the transfer of wealth to less developed countries. We will continue to maintain a significant bilateral and multilateral aid programme reflecting the aspiration of meeting the UN's target of 0.7% of GDP for aid as a long-term objective.

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We will also continue to provide leadership in Europe and internationally on environmental issues, building on the Rio Conference to encourage sustainable development - meeting our commitment to reduce Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions by 10% on 1990 levels by 2010 to prevent climate change. The Prime Minister has committed himself to attending the next UN Environmental Conference in June.

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### Britain and the European Union

We believe that in an uncertain, competitive world, the nation state is a rock of security. A nation's common heritage, culture, values and outlook are a precious source of stability. Nationhood gives people a sense of belonging.

The government has a positive vision for the European Union as a partnership of nations. We want to be in Europe but not run by Europe. We have much to gain from our membership of the European Union - in trade, in co-operation between governments, and in preserving European peace. We benefit from the huge trade opportunities that have opened up since Britain led the way in developing Europe's single market. We want to see the rest of Europe follow the same deregulated, enterprise policies that have transformed our economic prospects in Britain.

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However, in June, the nations of the European Union will gather in Amsterdam to negotiate possible amendments to the Treaty of Rome. It is a moment of truth, setting the direction in which the European Union will go. It will also be crucial in ensuring that we have a relationship with the rest of Europe with which we can be comfortable.

A Conservative Government will seek a partnership of nation states. Some others would like to build a federal Europe. A British Conservative Government will not allow Britain to be part of a federal European state.

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The diversity of Europe's nations is its strength. As more nations join the European Union, it needs to become flexible not more rigid. We must also ensure that any developments which only include some members do not work to the disadvantage of others.

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Our priorities for Europe's development will be enlargement of the Community, completion of the single market, reform of the European Court of Justice, and further strengthening of the role of national parliaments. We will seek more co-operation between national governments on areas of common interest - defence, foreign policy and the fight against international crime and drugs. We also believe the European Union itself should do less, but do it better. So, we have proposed incorporating the principle of subsidiarity - that the European Union should only do that which cannot be done by member states acting alone - into the Treaty. This is how we are approaching the Inter-Governmental Conference.

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We will argue for a flexible Europe which fully accommodates the interests and aspirations of all its member states and where any new proposals have to be open to all and agreed by all. We will not accept other changes to the Treaty that would further centralise decision-making, reduce national sovereignty, or remove our right to permanent opt-outs.

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We will retain Britain's veto and oppose further extension of qualified majority voting in order to ensure we can prevent policies that would be harmful to the national interest. We will defend the rights of national parliaments and oppose more powers being given to the European Parliament at the expense of national parliaments.

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We will take whatever steps are necessary to keep our frontier controls. We will resist attempts to change the inter-governmental nature of co-operation in justice and home affairs. We will not accept the development of new legal rights that extend the concept of European citizenship.

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Britain's rebate has so far saved British taxpayers £18bn and we will protect it.

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One of the greatest challenges Europe faces is to cut unemployment and make its businesses competitive. Here Britain is leading the way. We will continue to argue for deregulation and lower costs on Europe's businesses, the policies that have helped give Britain one of the strongest economies in Europe. We will not put that achievement at risk by signing up to the Social Chapter, which would open the door to imposing the high costs of the European social model on British

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business. Once Britain accepted the Social Chapter we could not stop many of these damaging policies being imposed on us by qualified majority voting.

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We will insist that any new Treaty recognises that our opt-out from the Social Chapter enables Britain to be exempt from the Working Time Directive, and prevents any abuse of our opt-out. And we will not accept a new employment chapter in any revised Treaty, which would expose British businesses to new costs.

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We made it clear in the previous chapter that we will continue to work for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the lifting of the worldwide ban on British beef and will insist on measures to stop quota hopping by foreign fishing vessels.

Protecting Britain's interests demands tough, experienced negotiation. John Major has proved he has these qualities -including the resolve to say no when necessary even if that means being isolated. Labour have said they would never let Britain be isolated in Europe: they would damage Britain's success by undermining our veto, signing up to the Social Chapter and following in others' footsteps - even where they lead in the wrong direction. They support policies that would fragment the United Kingdom's influence within a Europe of Regions. The Liberal Democrats welcome the end of the nation state. Only the Conservatives can be trusted to stand up for Britain in Europe: our national interest must be protected.

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### **A Single Currency: Our Referendum Guarantee**

The creation of a European single currency would be of enormous significance for all European states whether they are members or not. We must take account of all the consequences for Britain of such a major development of policy.

John Major secured for us at Maastricht an opt-out from the commitment to enter a single currency. It is only because of this opt-out that we have the right to negotiate and then decide whether it is in Britain's interest to join.

It is in our national interest to take part in the negotiations. Not to do so would be an abdication of responsibility. A single currency would affect us whether we were in or out. We need to participate in discussions in order to ensure the rules are not fixed against our interests. The national interest is not served by exercising our option - one way or the other - before we have to.

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For a single currency to come into effect, European economies will have to meet crucial criteria. On the information currently available, we believe that it is very unlikely that there will be sufficient convergence of economic conditions across Europe for a single currency to proceed safely on the target date of January 1st 1999. We will not include legislation on the single currency in the first Queen's Speech. If it cannot proceed safely, we believe it would be better for Europe to delay any introduction of a single currency rather than rush ahead to meet an artificial timetable. We will argue this case in the negotiations that lie ahead.

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We believe it is in our national interest to keep our options open to take a decision on a single currency when all the facts are before us. If a single currency is created, without sustainable convergence, a British Conservative government will not be part of it.

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If, during the course of the next parliament, a Conservative government were to conclude that it was in our national interest to join a single currency, we have given a guarantee that no such decision would be implemented unless the British people gave their express approval in a referendum.

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### Defence in an Unstable World

The old rivalries of the Cold War have been replaced by new tensions. Britain must be able to react rapidly to protect our security and interests around the globe.

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Our armed forces are the most professional in the world. We have cut unnecessary bureaucracy and increased efficiency, and directed money to support our Services in the frontline. We have made the changes necessary to adapt our Services to the threats which we might now face. We have set out defence plans based on stable levels of funding. There is no need for a defence review, which would raise fear and uncertainty about the future.

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We will continue to ensure the Services have the modern weapons they need to guarantee their superiority against potential aggressors. We will make sure we can conduct military operations throughout the world, and develop our capability to deploy the three services together and rapidly, including the ability to transport heavy equipment into an operational zone. We will take part in ballistic missile defence research so we can decide whether we should procure any such system for the United Kingdom.

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We will continue to target our efforts on recruiting for the armed forces. We will set up an Army Foundation College, which will provide 1,300 places for 16 and 17 year olds who want to join the Army. We will also enable the reserve forces to play a more active role in operations. We appreciate the enormous value of cadet forces, and our current plans include resources to encourage their further development.

We will continue to support Britain's defence industry, and we will work with companies to identify the technologies of the future.

NATO will remain the cornerstone of our security. We will resist attempts to bring the Western European Union under the control of the European Union, and ensure that defence policy remains a matter for sovereign nations.

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Labour 1997: "New Labour: Because Britain Deserves Better"

Chapter: We will give Britain leadership in Europe

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- Referendum on single currency
- Lead reform of the EU
- Retain Trident: strong defence through NATO
- A reformed United Nations
- Helping to tackle global poverty

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Britain, though an island nation with limited natural resources, has for centuries been a leader of nations. But under the Conservatives Britain's influence has waned.

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With a new Labour government, Britain will be strong in defence; resolute in standing up for its own interests; an advocate of human rights and democracy the world over; a reliable and powerful ally in the international institutions of which we are a member; and will be a leader in Europe.

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Our vision of Europe is of an alliance of independent nations choosing to co-operate to achieve the goals they cannot achieve alone. We oppose a European federal superstate.

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There are only three options for Britain in Europe. The first is to come out. The second is to stay in, but on the sidelines. The third is to stay in, but in a leading role.

An increasing number of Conservatives, overtly or covertly, favour the first. But withdrawal would be disastrous for Britain. It would put millions of jobs at risk. It would dry up inward investment. It would destroy our clout in international trade negotiations. It would relegate Britain from the premier division of nations.

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The second is exactly where we are today under the Conservatives. The BSE fiasco symbolises their failures in Europe.

The third is the path a new Labour government will take. A fresh start in Europe, with the credibility to achieve reform. We have set out a detailed agenda for reform, leading from the front during the UK presidency in the first half of 1998:

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- Rapid completion of the single market: a top priority for the British presidency. We will open up markets to competition; pursue tough action against unfair state aids; and ensure proper enforcement of single market rules. This will strengthen Europe's competitiveness and open up new opportunities for British firms.
- High priority for enlargement of the European Union to include the countries of central and eastern Europe and Cyprus, and the institutional reforms necessary to make an enlarged Europe work more efficiently.
- Urgent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. It is costly, vulnerable to fraud and not geared to environmental protection. Enlargement and the World Trade talks in 1999 will

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make reform even more essential. We will seek a thorough overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy to conserve our fish stocks in the long-term interests of the UK fishing industry.

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- Greater openness and democracy in EU institutions with open voting in the Council of Ministers and more effective scrutiny of the Commission by the European Parliament. We have long supported a proportional voting system for election to the European Parliament.
- Retention of the national veto over key matters of national interest, such as taxation, defence and security, immigration, decisions over the budget and treaty changes, while considering the extension of Qualified Majority Voting in limited areas where that is in Britain's interests.
- Britain to sign the Social Chapter. An 'empty chair' at the negotiating table is disastrous for Britain. The Social Chapter is a framework under which legislative measures can be agreed. Only two measures have been agreed - consultation for employees of large Europe-wide companies and entitlement to unpaid parental leave. Successful companies already work closely with their workforces. The Social Chapter cannot be used to force the harmonisation of social security or tax legislation and it does not cost jobs. We will use our participation to promote employability and flexibility, not high social costs.

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### The single currency

Any decision about Britain joining the single currency must be determined by a hard-headed assessment of Britain's economic interests. Only Labour can be trusted to do this: the Tories are riven by faction. But there are formidable obstacles in the way of Britain being in the first wave of membership, if EMU takes place on 1 January 1999. What is essential for the success of EMU is genuine convergence among the economies that take part, without any fudging of the rules. However, to exclude British membership of EMU forever would be to destroy any influence we have over a process which will affect us whether we are in or out. We must therefore play a full part in the debate to influence it in Britain's interests.

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In any event, there are three preconditions which would have to be satisfied before Britain could join during the next Parliament: first, the Cabinet would have to agree; then Parliament; and finally the people would have to say 'Yes' in a referendum.

## Strong defence through NATO

The post-Cold War world faces a range of new security challenges - proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the growth of ethnic nationalism and extremism, international terrorism, and crime and drug trafficking. A new Labour government will build a strong defence against these threats. Our security will continue to be based on NATO.

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Our armed forces are among the most effective in the world. The country takes pride in their professionalism and courage. We will ensure that they remain strong to defend Britain. But the security of Britain is best served in a secure world, so we should be willing to contribute to wider international peace and security both through the alliances to which we belong, in particular NATO and the Western European Union, and through other international organisations such as the UN and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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Labour will conduct a strategic defence and security review to reassess our essential security interests and defence needs. It will consider how the roles, missions and capabilities of our armed forces should be adjusted to meet the new strategic realities. The review we propose will be foreign policy led, first assessing our likely overseas commitments and interests and then establishing how our forces should be deployed to meet them.

## Arms control

A new Labour government will retain Trident. We will press for multilateral negotiations towards mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons. When satisfied with verified progress towards our goal of the global elimination of nuclear weapons, we will ensure that British nuclear weapons are included in multilateral negotiations.

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Labour will work for the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and for a strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention. Labour will ban the import, export, transfer and manufacture of all forms of antipersonnel landmines. We will introduce an immediate moratorium on their use. Labour will not permit the sale of arms to regimes that might use them for internal repression or international aggression. We will increase the transparency and



accountability of decisions on export licences for arms. And we will support an EU code of conduct governing arms sales.

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We support a strong UK defence industry, which is a strategic part of our industrial base as well as our defence effort. We believe that part of its expertise can be extended to civilian use through a defence diversification agency.

### Leadership in the international community

A new Labour government will use Britain's permanent seat on the Security Council to press for substantial reform of the United Nations, including an early resolution of its funding crisis, and a more effective role in peacekeeping, conflict prevention, the protection of human rights and safeguarding the global environment.

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The Commonwealth provides Britain with a unique network of contacts linked by history, language and legal systems. Labour is committed to giving renewed priority to the Commonwealth in our foreign relations. We will seize the opportunity to increase trade and economic co-operation and will also build alliances with our Commonwealth partners to promote reform at the UN and common action on the global environment. Britain has a real opportunity to provide leadership to the Commonwealth when we host the heads of government meeting in Britain at the end of 1997.

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### Promoting economic and social development

Labour will also attach much higher priority to combating global poverty and underdevelopment. According to the World Bank, there are 1.3 billion people in the world who live in absolute poverty, subsisting on less than US\$1 a day, while 35,000 children die each day from readily preventable diseases.

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Labour believes that we have a clear moral responsibility to help combat global poverty. In government, we will strengthen and restructure the British aid programme and bring development issues back into the mainstream of government decision-making. A Cabinet minister will lead a new department of international development.

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We will shift aid resources towards programmes that help the poorest people in the poorest countries. We reaffirm the UK's commitment to the 0.7 per cent UN aid target and in government Labour will start to reverse the decline in UK aid spending.

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We will work for greater consistency between the aid, trade, agriculture and economic reform policies of the EU. We will use our leadership position in the EU to maintain and enhance the position of the poorest countries during the renegotiation of the Lome Convention.

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We will support further measures to reduce the debt burden borne by the world's poorest countries and to ensure that developing countries are given a fair deal in international trade.

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It is our aim to rejoin UNESCO. We will consider how this can be done most effectively and will ensure that the cost is met from savings elsewhere.

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### Human rights

Labour wants Britain to be respected in the world for the integrity with which it conducts its foreign relations. We will make the protection and promotion of human rights a central part of our foreign policy. We will work for the creation of a permanent international criminal court to investigate genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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### A new environmental internationalism

Labour believes that the threats to the global climate should push environmental concerns higher up the international agenda.

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A Labour government will strengthen cooperation in the European Union on environmental issues, including climate change and ozone depletion. We will lead the fight against global warming, through our target of a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2010.

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Labour believes the international environment should be safeguarded in negotiations over international trade. We will also work for the successful negotiation of a new protocol on climate change to be completed in Japan in 1997.

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### **Leadership, not isolation**

There is a sharp division between those who believe the way to cope with global change is for nations to retreat into isolationism and protectionism, and those who believe in internationalism and engagement. Labour has traditionally been the party of internationalism. Britain cannot be strong at home if it is weak abroad. The tragedy of the Conservative years has been the squandering of Britain's assets and the loss of Britain's influence.

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A new Labour government will use those assets to the full to restore Britain's pride and influence as a leading force for good in the world. With effective leadership and clear vision, Britain could once again be at the centre of international decision-making instead of at its margins.

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Liberal Democrat 1997: "Make the Difference"

Chapter: Britain in the World

**"Which Party has the vision to build the kind of world I want to live in?"**

Our aim: To recast Britain's foreign policy and enable this country to play a leading role in shaping Europe and strengthening international institutions.

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The problem: For too long British foreign policy has looked backwards to its imperial past. Britain's interests have been damaged by an attitude to Europe that has been, at best, ambivalent and, at worst, hostile. This attitude has also cost Britain opportunities for influence and advantage.

Our commitment: Liberal Democrats will ensure that Britain plays a leading role in shaping Europe, democratising its institutions and strengthening its role as a framework for prosperity, peace and security. Britain, with its world experience, expert armed forces and permanent membership of the UN Security Council, has a unique role to play in reforming international institutions for the next century.

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**Our priorities are to:**

- Make the European Union (EU) work more effectively and democratise its institutions.
- Widen Europe to include the new democracies of central and eastern Europe. Create a strong framework for Britain's defence and security through NATO and European co-operation.
- Give Britain a leading role in reforming and strengthening the UN and other international institutions.
- Promote an enforceable framework for international law, human rights and the protection of the environment.

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**Positive leadership in Europe**

Britain's interests can only best be pursued through constructive participation in an enlarged European Union. Our vision is of a European Union that is decentralised, democratic and diverse.

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A strong and united Europe, but one that respects cultural traditions and national and regional identities.

**In seeking to reform the EU, our priorities are to:**

- Give the British people a say. Reform that fundamentally changes Britain's place in Europe should only proceed if it has the explicit support of Britain's people. If there is any substantial change in Britain's relationship with the EU, the British people must give their consent through a referendum.
- Make EU institutions more democratic and accountable. We will give the House of Commons a more effective role in scrutinising European policy. We also want the Council of Ministers and the EC Commission to be more accountable to the elected European Parliament. We will introduce a fair and proportional voting system for British MEPs in time for the 1999 European Parliament elections.
- Make EU decision-making more efficient and effective. Europe cannot effectively enlarge without improving its decision-making. We therefore favour the wider application of majority voting. But we will keep the veto on all issues relating to the constitution, budgetary matters and regulations on pay and social security. We support the use of the 'double majority', especially on matters such as foreign and security policy. Each member state must retain the unfettered right to make its own decisions on the commitment of its national troops.

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**Pursuing Britain's interests in Europe**

Britain has much to gain from EU membership. This will take new leadership, a new approach and a renewed sense of national confidence.

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**Our aims in Europe are to:**

- Enhance economic prosperity, by promoting the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and money throughout the EU and by completing the European Single Market, particularly in areas of financial services, pensions and air travel.
- Participate in a successful single currency. Being part of a successful single currency will bring low inflation and low interest rates. Staying out will result in less investment and a

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loss of influence. However, three conditions must be met before Britain can join. First, the single currency must be firmly founded on the Maastricht criteria. Second, Britain must meet those criteria. Third, the British people must have agreed to it in a referendum.

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- Strengthen the European framework for peace and security. Britain's security and national interests are best pursued in partnership with its European neighbours. We will work to strengthen European Common Foreign and Security policy to enable greater scope for united European action. Individual member states must be free to decide whether or not their national forces will take part in any particular action.
- Fight crime and protect citizens' rights through more effective co-operation between EU states' police and customs forces with greater democratic accountability. We will work to improve European co-operation against cross-border criminal activity and allow free movement for Britain's people throughout Europe. The administration of border controls should remain with individual member nations until they can be confident that the EU's external borders are secure.
- Reform the Common Agricultural Policy, converting it into a system of direct payments to support economic, social and environmental goals in rural communities.
- Reform fisheries policies, scrapping the Common Fisheries Policy and replacing it with a new Europe-wide fisheries policy based on the regional management of fish stocks. We will take urgent action to end quota-hopping and begin the phased abolition of industrial fishing.

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### Strong defence in an uncertain world

The first decades of the next century are likely to be turbulent and unstable everywhere, including within and around Europe. Britain must maintain an effective security capability. This will best be achieved through NATO and European co-operation, and this country must continue to play a full part in both.

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### We will:

- Maintain a strong defence at home and enable the UK to play a leading role in keeping international peace. We will maintain Britain's overall defence capability at its current level, whilst ensuring UK forces meet current needs and are appropriate to potential threats.

Commented [MOU259]: GP

- Retain Britain's basic nuclear capability through the Trident submarine force until such time as international multilateral nuclear disarmament can be achieved. We will restrict the number of nuclear warheads on Trident to the same number as previously deployed on Polaris.
- Resist the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We will press for the conclusion of a verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We will ensure that Britain plays an active part in talks to reduce the holdings of strategic nuclear weapons.
- Support the principle of common security. We support the extension of the security guarantees, from which western Europe has benefited, to the new democracies of central and eastern Europe. We support NATO and its enlargement.

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Commented [MOU262]: TL (arms)

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### Working for peace, security and sustainability

In an increasingly inter-dependent world, the security of a medium sized nation like Britain is best preserved within a framework of international law that is effective and enforceable.

Commented [MOU264]: SQP

### Reforming the United Nations

Playing a leading role in strengthening and reforming the United Nations should be a central aspect of Britain's foreign policy over the next decade.

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### We will work to:

- Strengthen the UN's peacekeeping capability so that it can take earlier and more effective action to prevent or suppress conflict. This should include establishing fast track machinery for negotiations; permanent, on-call, peacekeeping forces made up from high-calibre troops provided by member states; the reinstatement of a Military Staff Committee; the establishment of a UN Staff College to train officers; and improvements to the UN's command control, communication and intelligence capabilities.
- Support the establishment of an International Criminal Court to deal with genocide and war crimes.

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### Protecting the global environment

Pollution and environmental degradation do not respect national borders. Countries must work together if the world's environment is to be protected.

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**We will:**

- Take a lead in international environmental negotiations. We will press for tough and legally binding international targets for greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.
- Develop a global system of environmental protection. We will work for the creation of a global environmental organisation. We will promote an environmental equivalent of the Geneva Convention, to outlaw gross acts of environmental destruction in times of war.

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Commented [MOU270]: TL (enviro)

**Tackling world poverty**

The elimination of global famine, pestilence and poverty is not only a moral challenge, it is also essential for the world's long-term stability and peace.

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**We will:**

- Increase Britain's contribution to overseas aid. We will set out a timetable for sustained progress towards achieving the UN target for overseas development aid of 0.7 per cent of GNP within the next 10 years. Promote a timetable for debt relief to the poorest states including a programme for cancelling debt and the creation of new and additional resources for debt relief.
- Target Britain's bilateral aid where it is most needed. We will focus Britain's bilateral aid on the least developed countries and end the practice of tying aid.
- Require states that receive UK development assistance to respect the fundamental human rights of their people and suspend UK programmes where these standards are breached.

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**Controlling arms sales**

The global arms trade fuels conflicts, hinders prosperity and robs the world's poor of resources. Its growth must be diminished.

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**We will:**



- End the sale of British arms, war material, and 'dual use' technologies to regimes which abuse human rights, and strictly control arms sales to regions of tension or potential conflict.
- Seek a new international regime to control the arms trade. We will support tighter EU-wide restrictions on transfers of military technology to non-democratic regimes and press for the establishment of a mandatory UN register, in which all arms sales and transfers must be listed.
- Ban landmines. We will place an immediate and total ban on the production, stockpiling and export of anti-personnel landmines and work towards a global ban on landmine production.

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Commented [MOU278]: TL (arms)

### Free and fair trade

Free and fair-trade benefits all. The GATT Uruguay Round has successfully lowered barriers to international trade, but further reforms are needed.

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### We will seek action to:

- Enhance free trade by further reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, especially against the poorest countries.
- Improve global labour standards by permitting countries to discriminate against goods produced by nations that maintain practices such as child, slave and forced labour. We will support the work of the International Labour Organisation in raising labour standards throughout the world.
- Advance environmental objectives. We support the addition of an environmental sustainability clause to the GATT, setting out agreed principles of environmental policy against which trade measures can be judged.
- Reduce trans-national corporations' ability to abuse market power, through the development of a framework for global competition policy.

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Conservative 2001: "Time for Common Sense"

Chapter: A World Leader

### A world leader

Common sense means valuing what makes us distinctive as a nation

- A more flexible European Union
- Veto further transfers of power from Westminster to Brussels
- No European army outside NATO
- Global free trade by 2020
- A safe haven, not a soft touch, on asylum

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Britain is one of the world's most respected democracies, one of its most influential leaders, one of its most prosperous nations and one of its greatest military powers.

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Our possession of all of these qualities, which we rightly value, depends upon our ability to govern ourselves. And all of them are put at risk by the threat that is now posed to our independence.

Labour have lost confidence in our ability to govern ourselves.

It's time for common sense.

The next Conservative Government will secure our independence and use Britain's great strengths to help create a flexible Europe of nations, to maintain the Atlantic Alliance and to develop the role of the Commonwealth.

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"The next Conservative Government will keep the pound. We will maintain our national veto on European legislation."

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Commented [MOU297]: RPEU (scep)

"We want early enlargement of the European Union – the first wave, including Cyprus, should be admitted by 2004"

Commented [MOU298]: RPEU

## In Europe, not run by Europe

The guiding principle of Conservative policy towards the European Union is to be in Europe, but not run by Europe.

Commented [MOU299]: RPEU (scep)

We will lead a debate in Europe about its future, promoting our own clear and positive vision.

Commented [MOU300]: RPEU (scep)

The European Union has, with the prospect of enlargement, reached a fork in the road. Down one route lies a fully integrated superstate with nation states and the national veto disappearing. The Government is taking us down this route.

The alternative is a Europe of nations coming together in different combinations for different purposes and to differing extents. In other words, a network Europe. If Britain leads the debate, we can make this alternative a reality.

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We will insist on a Treaty 'flexibility' provision, so that outside the areas of the single market and core elements of an open, free-trading and competitive EU, countries need only participate in new legislative actions at a European level if they see this as in their national interest.

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At the same time, we are willing to support the principle of 'reinforced co-operation' in Europe, under which small groups of countries can become more closely integrated if they wish to do so, providing it does not damage Britain's national interest.

Commented [MOU303]: RPEU (scep)

The next Conservative Government will keep the pound. We will maintain our national veto on European legislation. Giving up either would put our ability to govern ourselves at risk. We will not ratify the Nice Treaty but will renegotiate it so that Britain does not lose its veto.

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Commented [MOU305]: RPEU (scep)

We also propose to amend our domestic law to include 'reserved powers'. This will prevent EU law from overriding the will of Parliament in areas which Parliament never intended to transfer to the EU.

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This policy will be reinforced with a determination to veto further transfers of power from Westminster to Brussels. Should any future Government wish to surrender any more of Parliament's rights and power to Brussels they should be required to secure approval for such a transfer in a referendum.

Commented [MOU307]: RPEU (scep)

We intend to press for the single market to be completed and for competition laws to be stronger so that British businesses which play by the rules are not undercut by other companies that do not.

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We will also press for Europe to tackle fraud and maladministration as a matter of priority. If the EU reduced waste and abandoned ill-considered programmes, it could make significant reductions in the overall size of the European budget.

### **A military power and a staunch ally**

One of the reasons that Britain is respected around the world is that it remains a first-class military power.

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The British way of life and freedom and democracy around the world are made more secure by the professionalism of our armed forces and the success of our long-term military alliances.

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Yet now all this is under threat.

The last four years have seen our armed forces come under increased pressure. Overstretched and undermanned, they have also come under attack from those more interested in political correctness than operational effectiveness. At the same time, our primary alliance, NATO, is being weakened by a concerted drive to create an independent military structure in the EU. And for the first time, a British government is leading this attempt.

A Conservative Government would pursue a very different policy.

We think it is common sense to support institutions that work. Our armed forces and NATO work very well.

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So we will support our armed forces by setting out to match commitments to capabilities, by making it a priority to achieve the armed forces' full Manning levels and by opposing political correctness. We will exempt the armed forces from the European Convention on Human Rights, just as France, Spain, Portugal and others have done.

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We will seek greater flexibility to deal with unplanned commitments and to reduce overstretch. We will reform the Territorial Army and enhance the role of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and our other Reserve Forces.

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Conservatives have always supported stronger European defence co-operation, but always inside NATO. We will not participate in a structure outside NATO, but will insist instead that any European initiative is under the NATO umbrella.

Commented [MOU318]: FAUS

We will also end this Government's equivocation over the development by the US of ballistic missile defences. We believe our close ally deserves our support in countering new threats from rogue states and terrorists equipped with weapons of mass destruction. We will take a lead in building support for ballistic missile defence against threats to Europe and America.

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We remain fully committed to Britain's independent nuclear deterrent.

Commented [MOU320]: GP

### Coming to the aid of

Playing our part in world leadership means playing our part in helping the development of other countries.

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We will work towards the UN aid target of 0.7% of GNP.

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We will do what we can to encourage responsible behaviour by aid recipients, by focusing on good governance, and by strengthening civil society, free markets, the rule of law and anti-corruption measures.

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Commented [MOU326]: TL (eco)

We will increase the involvement of charities and the voluntary sector. We will double the proportion of our aid budget spent through aid charities, as they are often better placed than governments to relieve suffering. We will also establish a central information service, 'Aid Direct', that will build strong direct links between aid donors and recipients.

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Multilateral aid and development institutions are crying out for reform. In particular, we are calling for the EU to set its house in order. Unless the Commission reforms its management, we will propose a treaty amendment allowing member states to deliver aid bilaterally instead.

Commented [MOU328]: RPEU (scep)

We will press for more effective debt relief, action on HIV/AIDS and conflict prevention and resolution.

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Commented [MOU330]: TL

Commented [MOU331]: GP

We will appoint an Envoy for Religious Freedom.

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### Taking a lead in the world

The world is changing. The old power blocs are declining in importance. Nations, and networks between nations, are taking centre stage.

Conservatives will build on Britain's strengths, so Britain can be a force for good. Britain has prospered when trade has been free. We will lead the campaign for a trans-Atlantic free trade area, encompassing the EU and NAFTA. This is a step towards our vision of global free trade by 2020. Britain has an unrivalled diplomatic service. We will strengthen it further by creating a new Foreign, Commonwealth and Trade Office to bring diplomacy and free trade together, giving renewed impetus to trade and commerce.

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Commented [MOU334]: GLTS

The Commonwealth has huge potential - as a force for stability, for promoting the rule of law, democracy and the open economy, and potentially as a means of focusing UK aid. We will consult with our partners on implementing many of the recommendations of the Commonwealth Commission.

Commented [MOU335]: LC

We will use Britain's influence in the world for peace and stability, whether in Kashmir or Cyprus or the Middle East.

Commented [MOU336]: GP

Britain has vast global reach. In a world where geography matters less, Britain is not on the periphery of anything. Uniquely, we have a central place in the EU, NATO, the Commonwealth and the UN. A Conservative government will be outward-looking, using our influence to the full.

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### **A safe haven, not a soft touch, on asylum**

Over the centuries Britain has welcomed people who have been persecuted by oppressive regimes overseas.

But now our ability to be a safe haven for the genuinely oppressed is severely hampered by the virtual collapse of our asylum system. This chaos encourages unfounded asylum claims.

Britain has gained a reputation as a soft touch for bogus asylum seekers.

This Government has allowed a crisis to develop which has encouraged an illegal trade in human misery, blighting many lives.

The problem here is worse than anywhere else in Europe because of Labour's mismanagement. The Government has presided over massive delays in processing applications and admits that thousands of those whose cases are rejected simply disappear and never leave.

In four years, Labour has seen the cost of the asylum system double and put a great strain on many communities. Our policy will be that all new asylum applicants are housed in secure reception centres until their cases are determined. This will speed up the process of establishing which claims are well-founded. Asylum applications from safe countries will not normally be accepted.

We will ensure that those whose claims are rejected are quickly deported by a new Removals Agency.

Conservatives will restore common sense to Britain's asylum procedures.



Chapter 5: Britain strong in the world

**Our ten-year goals:**

- Europe to have the most competitive knowledge-based economies in the world, as British ideas lead a reformed and enlarged Europe.
- Delivering Kyoto and international development targets, as we help tackle climate change and global poverty.

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**Our next steps:**

- Lead economic reform in Europe.
- Work for the re-start of world trade talks.
- Strong, effective and responsive armed forces.
- Raise international aid towards the UN target.
- Be the first country to introduce greenhouse gas trading to cut pollution.

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Commented [MOU345]: GLTS

Commented [MOU346]: GP

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Britain needs a government ready to stand up for our interests and values. We have a ten-year vision for British foreign policy: a leading player in Europe, our alliance with the USA strengthened, using our global connections to help Britain and tackle global problems.

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Unlike the Conservatives, we see Europe as an opportunity not a threat. Because we participate fully, we are able to work with our partners to shape an EU agenda that advances our national interests. We will put democratically elected national governments in the driving seat of EU policy. Our ten-year goal is to work with our partners for Europe to have the most competitive knowledge-based economies in the world. We hold to our promise: no membership of the single currency without the consent of the British people in a referendum.

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Commented [MOU354]: RPEU (scep)

Commented [MOU355]: GLTS

Commented [MOU356]: RPEU (scep)

Britain has some of the best armed forces in the world. With Labour, they are being developed to meet the challenges of the post-Cold War world.

Commented [MOU357]: GP

Labour is committed to lead the development of a comprehensive agenda for poverty reduction and sustainable development. We want to mobilise the international community to deliver the International Development Targets, generate growth and equity in developing countries, and help them benefit from global economic integration.

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Commented [MOU359]: TL (eco)

We are convinced of the science of global warming. We pledge to meet tough national targets for environmental protection, and we will work at international level to halt and reverse climate change.

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We face a choice between an inward-looking chauvinism that leads to isolation and a modern patriotism where the British national interest is pursued through international engagement.

### **Reform in Europe**

Europe is changing. Economic reform is under way in the European Union, with over two million new jobs created last year. Many new members are going to join the EU. Co-operation is being extended in defence and security policy. A new way of conducting EU business has been born - comparing best practice to share the benefits of diversity in order to reduce over-reliance on centralised regulation.

We face a very simple question. Do we want to be part of the change, influencing its direction? Or do we want to opt out? We have spent 50 years on the margins; it is time to make the most of our membership.

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We have seen the alternative. By 1997 Britain had retreated into itself: business was global, people travelled and worked around the world, our culture was open to new ideas, yet our government was closing itself off. And Britain got a worse deal. Because they were backward looking and divided on Europe, the Conservatives were weak and ineffective in Europe. And because of their weakness in Europe, Britain lost influence around the world. We lost our say over decisions that affected our lives.

In the last four years we have seen the benefits of engagement. Our rebate has been protected and our contributions are falling to similar levels as France and Italy. The Labour model of defence co-operation - giving Europe the option to act where NATO chooses not to- has won through. Economic reform is now helping the European economy. The veto on crucial issues of national sovereignty, such as tax, is safe. All this happened only because Labour had the strength to get involved, argue for its ideas, and persuade others to follow us.

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Commented [MOU365]: GLTS

Commented [MOU366]: RPEU (scep)

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Labour believes that Europe brings benefits for Britain, and a Europe reformed by British ideas, working with our MEPs, will be even better for Britain. Together with virtually all other European countries we do not support a United States of Europe. But we do believe a Europe made up of nation states and offering a unique blend of inter-governmental co-operation where possible and integration where necessary, can be a major force for good - for its own members and in the wider world.

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Commented [MOU369]: RPEU (scep)

We want to take Europe forward, to meet British needs

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### A Europe of prosperity

Europe is a crucial market, accounting for more than half of our trade. Britain has secured a shift in economic policy in Europe - away from harmonisation of rules and towards a system based on dynamic markets allied to comparison and promotion of best practice.

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The key priorities are: to deliver more choice and lower prices through liberalisation of financial services and utilities; to promote business development with a common EU patent and cuts in red tape; to develop our common research effort in frontier technologies like bioscience; to cut delays and fares by establishing an integrated Air Traffic Control system for Europe; and to develop effective labour market policy to tackle unemployment in dialogue with the social partners.

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Commented [MOU373]: Other

We support efforts being made across the EU to reform welfare states, modernise social partnership and advance social inclusion. EU state aid policy should bear down on aids that distort the single market while supporting economic modernisation. We will keep the veto on vital matters of national sovereignty, such as tax and border controls.

Commented [MOU374]: RPEU (scep)

Trade has been a vital source of prosperity for Europe's citizens. Our vision is of an open European economy. That requires a genuine single market, in an open world trading system.

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### A wider Europe

New countries joining the EU will give Britain a bigger market and Europe a bigger voice. Membership will help guarantee the freedoms of the new democracies in central and eastern Europe. Labour is pledged to do all it can to enable the first group of applicant countries to join in time to take part in the next European Parliamentary elections in 2004.

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It is vital we ratify the Treaty of Nice which is essential to enlargement; Labour in government will do so. The Conservatives have said they will insist on trying to renegotiate Europe's treaties at the first summit after the election. No other country agrees with this. That means that a Conservative government would either have to back down in the face of opposition, or take Britain out of Europe altogether with disastrous consequences for Britain.

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Our argument is that if Britain is stronger in Europe, it will be stronger in the rest of the world. We reject the view of those who say we must choose between Europe and the USA. We shall remain the USA's firm ally and friend; but we are not going to turn our backs on Europe. The USA and Europe account for ten per cent of world population but 60 per cent of global GDP; working together we can tackle many problems and spread the benefits of freedom, peace and prosperity.

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Commented [MOU379]: Other

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### A Europe of the future

The main sources of popular legitimacy in Europe remain national governments and parliaments. So national governments should be seen to be setting the agenda of the EU, with the European Council setting the EU's priorities, a strong independent Commission ensuring that the European interest is heard and enforced, and an effective European Parliament improving draft legislation and holding the Commission to account.

Labour wants the next Inter-governmental Conference in 2004 to address public concerns about the way the EU works, spelling out in a clear statement of principles what should and should not

be done at European level. Labour supports a stronger role for national parliaments in European affairs, for example in a second chamber of the European Parliament, with a particular remit to oversee the division of competences. We will also insist that the Commission completes its internal reform programme.

## Defence

Britain's national security is based on the mutual support that comes from membership of NATO. That will not change. And although Britain has rarely been more secure from foreign invasion, there are new threats to our people from crime and terrorism. Instability around the world can affect us directly and we have a global responsibility to play our part in reducing international conflict, controlling the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and contributing to international peace-keeping and peace-making operations.

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(arms)

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To enable the European Union to act where NATO chooses not to, the EU should improve its military capabilities for humanitarian, peace-keeping and crisis management tasks.

Our armed forces are the best in the world at fighting if they have to, and keeping the peace where they can. Labour is committed to investing more in real terms in our armed services over the next three years, the first year-on-year real increase in funds for over a decade. An important part of that investment will be in better service accommodation. We are determined to recruit and retain the best people, from all walks of life and all backgrounds.

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Commented [MOU388]: GP

We will look after the interests of Britain's veterans. We have doubled funding for research on Gulf War illnesses, and will continue this important work.

In 1997 Labour promised a strategic defence review. Today, that review is admired around the world for its clarity, efficiency and foresight. We need more mobile and more flexible armed forces, with the ability to project force at distance and speed, to work closely with other nations and international bodies, and to fight and keep the peace. We have shown what this means in practice in Kosovo and Sierra Leone, and our servicemen and women have responded

magnificently. We are determined to maximise resources for frontline use by disposing of surplus spares and promoting smart procurement and efficiency savings.

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The European Defence Initiative is an important part of our defence policy. Europe spends two-thirds as much as the US on defence, but gets only a fraction of its effectiveness. European nations need to modernise their armed forces for rapid and flexible deployment. Improved EU military capabilities will not be separate from NATO structures and would only be deployed where NATO as a whole chooses not to engage. The launch of an EU operation will follow a unanimous decision, with each member state free to decide whether to take part.

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We support Trident, Britain's minimum nuclear deterrent. The Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty commits us to work for the global elimination of nuclear weapons. We are enthusiastic signatories to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, whose coming into force will impede nuclear proliferation, and we want to see the USA and Russia continue to reduce their nuclear stockpiles.

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We recognise the new dangers posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the need to combat them. Nuclear arms reductions and proliferation controls remain an important part of defence and security policy. We will seek effective inspections against the development of chemical and biological weapons. We will encourage the US to consult closely with NATO allies on its ideas for missile defence, and to pursue dialogue with Russia on a new framework for strategic arms control that will encourage further cuts in nuclear weapons.

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The British defence industry is a vital part of our economy, sustaining some 350,000 high-technology jobs. We will continue to work closely with our best companies to get the best equipment for our armed forces - a good deal for the taxpayer as well as a secure future for high-technology jobs.

The UK has introduced the most open report on arms exports of any European nation and has led the EU to adopt a code of conduct on arms sales. Labour will lead efforts to control the trade in small arms, and work for a comprehensive action plan at this year's UN conference on small arms, including an international arms surrender fund to provide development aid in exchange for

firearms. We will legislate to modernise the regulation of arms exports, with a licensing system to control the activities of arms brokers and traffickers wherever they are located. We will work with EU applicant countries to strengthen their capacity to control legal and illicit arms transfers.

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## The modern world

Britain belongs to a unique range of influential global organisations, giving us responsibilities and opportunities. Labour will stand up for Britain.

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- At the UN, where we support a more modern and representative Security Council, with more effective peace-keeping.
- At the Group of 7 leading industrialised countries, where we will stay at the forefront of efforts to promote development.
- In the Commonwealth, where we will work to promote human rights and bridge the digital divide.

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We will argue for an early, comprehensive world trade round, to the benefit of industrialised and developing countries alike. The World Trade Organisation must be reformed, not rejected. We will support fairer terms of trade for developing countries, and a reduction in protectionism in the developed world in areas such as agriculture. We will continue to help developing countries exercise their rights within the WTO.

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We support the promotion of higher labour standards around the world, as well as respect for the environment, as we expand world trade. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the place to set labour standards, but we believe there should be closer co-operation between the ILO and WTO through the creation of a joint standing forum of the two organisations.

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We are committed to encouraging universal observance of human rights. Governments that are democratically elected will be firmer allies for peace; open societies that respect individual freedom will be more reliable trade partners. Labour will be a friend of those denied human rights and a supporter of steps to strengthen them.

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Labour has played a leading role in bringing war criminals, notably from former Yugoslavia, to justice, and in establishing a permanent court to try war crimes. We will work to make the International Criminal Court a reality, with Britain as one of its first members.

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### International development

In 1997 Labour pledged to give new priority to tackling global poverty. Four years on, there have been real achievements - a cabinet minister heads an internationally respected department, the aid budget has been substantially raised, and tied aid abolished. Britain is playing a leading world role on debt relief, education, HIV/AIDS, and in responding to humanitarian disasters. With strong UK leadership, the international development effort is now increasingly focused on poverty reduction.

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This is morally right, but also in our interest. Many of the world's biggest challenges - from violent conflict to rapid population growth to environmental threat - are caused or exacerbated by global poverty and inequality. There can be no secure future for any of us unless we promote greater global social justice.

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Labour will continue to focus Britain's development effort on the achievement of the international development targets by 2015 - including halving the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty, reducing child and infant mortality by two-thirds, primary education for all children, and sustainable development plans in every country.

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With Labour the aid budget will rise to 0.33 per cent of GNP by 2003-04, reaching £3.6 billion - a 45 per cent increase in real terms since 1997 level. We remain committed to the UN target of 0.7 per cent of national income devoted to development and will make further substantial increases over the next Parliament. We remain committed to our bill, blocked by the Tories, to consolidate our poverty-focused approach to development.

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We are using this aid to support political and economic reform in developing countries. Our aid is an investment to help countries put in place policies to raise the growth rate with greater equity, crack down on corruption, promote human rights, including for women and girls, and develop

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effective governance and democracy. We will legislate to toughen controls over UK nationals who commit offences of corruption abroad.

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Labour will champion increased effectiveness and a stronger focus on poverty reduction within international institutions - particularly the EU, but also the World Bank, IMF, UN and Commonwealth - with full support for poverty reduction strategies where they genuinely prioritise poverty reduction. We are committed to international action to put the needs of children at the centre of these strategies. By 2006 we want to raise to 70 per cent the proportion of EU aid going to low income countries, and work with the Commission, Parliament and other governments to strengthen the EU's development effort.

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Labour has led internationally on debt relief, providing 100 per cent relief for countries committed to spending the proceeds on poverty-reduction. We will work to help more of the heavily indebted poor countries qualify for debt relief where this benefits the poor. And we will work to prevent new debt burdens through international agreement not to give export credits for excessive military spending or prestige projects.

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Education has a special place for Labour. We will increase further our support for quality primary education for all, particularly for girls. Imfundo project, part of an £800 million education programme, will bring together public and private sector commitment to use IT to ensure effective teacher training and education management. We will give top priority to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, which is inflicting massive human and economic costs across the developing world. We will work for the creation of a global health fund to make essential drugs and commodities more accessible to the poor, focusing on TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS. This will complement our existing support for the development of basic healthcare systems, and our new tax credits to incentivise research by the drug companies into the diseases of poverty.

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Development goes much wider than aid and debt relief. It is also about how we manage the global economy. Our aim is to shape globalisation so that it works better for the world's poor.

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Trade is key but so is private investment. We will promote socially responsible business practice through advisory services on codes of social responsibility, the ethical trading initiative, the Export Credit Guarantee Department's new code of business principles, the Commonwealth Development Corporation's partnership with the private sector, and our initiatives to encourage private investment in infrastructure.

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Nowhere will our resolve be more tested than in Africa. Labour is committed to strengthening our partnership for development with Africa. We will work with reforming governments, international institutions, the private sector and civil society in support of nationally owned development strategies. We will also redouble our efforts to prevent and resolve violent conflicts in Africa, using our new Africa conflict fund to provide help for security sector reform, demilitarisation programmes and tighter controls over small arms.

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### The environmental challenge

The poor make the smallest per capita contribution to climate change, but are often most affected when it happens. We are convinced by the scientific evidence of climate change - and convinced that now is the time to act. We need action at local, national and international level if we are to preserve the stability of our natural environment over the next 50 years. The principle of mutual responsibility that governs our approach to social problems also applies to environmental issues.

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The healthy future of our environment is one of the world's great challenges. We must make substantial changes in the way we work and live to safeguard all our futures. The UK played a leading role in the Kyoto conference. The targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions agreed at that conference are a vital first step in the battle against global warming. It is critical that the whole international community plays its part in making a reality of sustainable development. We are determined to play a constructive role at the 'Rio plus 10' meeting in South Africa next year.

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We are one of the few countries to have met our 1992 obligations to hold greenhouse gases in 2000 below their 1990 levels. In 1997 we set a target of reducing CO2 emissions by 20 per cent by 2010. We will meet our obligations arising from the Kyoto protocol and have set out a detailed strategy to achieve more - a 23 per cent cut in greenhouse gases by 2010. The Royal Commission on

Environmental Pollution has said the UK will need to cut CO2 production by 60 per cent by 2050, so we need to press ahead with a radical agenda for the development of low carbon economic growth, embodied in our £700 million commitment to renewable energy.

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In addition to our proposals for environmental technology and renewable energy described in “Prosperity for all”, we must also make progress in the following areas:

- We must make the market work for the environment. Britain is developing the first national CO2 emissions trading system in the world. It will help companies find the most efficient way of reducing emissions - and reward them for doing so. Once the system is established here we will seek to extend it around the world.
- We will support hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, which already offer a halving of fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, with cheaper motoring to match - and for cleaner fuels and biofuels. By increasing demand for new technologies we can boost innovation and the vitality of the UK car industry.
- It is imperative that we use natural resources more efficiently and recycle more. We will continue to tax pollution and reward clean production. We will develop environmental productivity indicators. We have set a target for the recycling of 35 per cent of household waste by 2015, and will work with all local authorities to introduce kerbside recycling schemes wherever appropriate.
- Water management is a vital challenge for the future - for the environment and for the growing world population. We will continue to make our contribution at home: leakage is down by almost 30 per cent since 1997, bills have been cut by 12 per cent and disconnections have been ended.
- Environmental protection and sustainable development go hand in hand. We cannot protect the environment without addressing the development needs of the poor, and poverty reduction depends on safeguarding natural resources on which poor people depend.
- We will continue to provide leadership abroad, working for international agreement on climate change, improved integration of the environment in European policies and a strong global environment agency built around the current UN environment programme. We will work to improve marine and forest conservation overseas and in the UK.

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**How labour is strengthening your voice in the world:**

- by taking a lead in Europe, standing up for Britain’s rights and reforming Europe to promote jobs and deepen democracy
- by supporting our armed forces, making sure our troops are always available and effective in times of crisis
- by working to tackle global climate change, meeting our own tough targets and pushing other countries to meet theirs
- by leading the fight against global poverty, with increased aid, better spent

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Britain can be pivotal to world affairs, using our alliances to advance our interests and values. The key is to use our strengths of history and geography to engage with other countries, not retreat. That’s Labour’s promise

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Liberal Democrat 2001: “Freedom, Justice, Honesty”

Chapter: Britain's Role in the European Union

### Your say in Europe

The European Union has a fundamental role in guaranteeing peace and freedom in Europe. By promoting enterprise, protecting the environment and fighting discrimination, the EU brings enormous benefits to Britain. Yet neither Conservative nor Labour governments have made the most of Britain's potential as a core member of the EU.

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Our priorities in Europe are:

- Enlargement of the EU to include the emerging democracies of central and eastern Europe
- Reform of the EU's institutions to make them more open, democratic and effective
- Reaching agreement on a constitutional settlement for Europe to define and limit the powers of the EU
- Co-operation with our European Liberal Democrat partners to achieve our aims in these areas

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Liberal Democrats are firm supporters of the European Union, but as critical members of the European family, we are also firm on its failings. We believe that the EU offers the best means of promoting Britain's interests in Europe and in the wider world. Nations acting together can achieve more.

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The EU must have the resources and powers to act in areas where problems cannot be solved at a national level. But it should stay clear when European action is not necessary.

Europe needs a new agenda for reform. Liberal Democrats are determined that Britain should lead this reform. We want a Europe where the interests of people not bureaucrats come first; a Europe that seeks to empower people, not impose upon them; and where European institutions concentrate on what they do best. We will work to:

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- Establish a Constitution for the European Union to define and limit the powers of the EU ensuring that decisions are made at the most appropriate level. It would set out the roles, responsibilities and powers of EU institutions in relation to members states. It would

provide a stable and legitimate framework to reinforce democracy and restore public confidence in the EU. The Charter of Fundamental Rights should be at the heart of a Constitution for Europe.

- Focus the scope of European Union action. We need to improve the quality of EU governance. The EU should focus its policy-making only on those areas for which EU-wide action is indispensable. This means ensuring that the principle of subsidiarity is fully respected. A standing scrutiny committee in the European Parliament should be established to ensure that EU proposals meet the criteria of subsidiarity and proportionality.
- Make the European Commission more democratically accountable. The Commission President's 'State of the Union' speech should be accompanied by a detailed list of proposals, individually justified and explained. Each new EU legislative proposal should include a justification of why EU action is necessary. The work programme should be put to a substantive vote by the European Parliament in plenary session. The committees of the European Parliament should be able to cross-examine individual commissioners on the proposals under their responsibility. The European Parliament should have the power to vet and veto the appointment of each and every commissioner and, if necessary, sack individual Commissioners.
- Make sure that European Union bodies are more open. All EU institutions should conform to the principles of freedom of information. The Council of Ministers should meet in public whenever it discusses legislation and publish a record of its proceedings. The political leader of the country holding the Presidency of the European Council should be obliged to appear before the plenary session of the European Parliament both before and after all meetings of the European Council.
- Maintain the veto in areas of vital interest to the UK. We favour the application of majority voting in the Council where necessary to ensure that the EU functions effectively. But we will maintain a veto on the constitution, defence, own resources, budgetary and tax matters and regulations on pay and social security.
- Improve Westminster's scrutiny of European legislation and of the activities of UK ministers attending the Council of Ministers. There should be no substantial initiatives for European legislation in the Council of Ministers which have not been scrutinised by the UK Parliament. Ministers, including the Prime Minister should give evidence before a

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European Union Affairs Committee in Westminster prior to European Council meetings and any significant meeting of ministers.

- Increase the transparency of the European Central Bank. The Board of the Bank should publish its minutes and votes, following the practice of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.
- Support a European Common Foreign and Security Policy that includes a significant defence capability consistent with our membership of NATO and other international institutions.
- Hold meetings of the European Parliament only in Brussels to end the waste of time and money incurred by holding meetings in Strasbourg.
- Push for early enlargement of the EU. The nations of central and eastern Europe have now been waiting over ten years for the opportunity to benefit from EU membership. We will seek to ensure that there is no further slippage in accession schedules dependent upon meeting the Copenhagen criteria such as guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

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### **Setting You Free**

Remove unnecessary regulations and reduce administrative costs. We support moves to streamline the role of the EU Commission and to strengthen measures against fraud. We will push for obligatory regulatory impact assessments on all new EU proposals with a direct bearing on businesses. We will also stop the practice of 'goldplating' EU regulations, whereby the UK government unnecessarily adds requirements to minimum EU standards.

### **Green Action**

#### **Putting the Environment at the Heart of Europe**

- All EU policies should be analysed for their likely environmental impact, with results reported to the European Parliament. This is particularly important for EU overseas aid, where we will support the establishment of a specialised European aid agency. All member states must comply fully with EU environmental standards, and the European Court of Justice should apply higher fines to those failing to comply. We will support the initiative started at the Cardiff summit to integrate environmental objectives into all EU activities -

particularly in the area of trade policy, where the Commission has sole competence to negotiate on the EU's behalf.

**Strengthening Europe's Voice on the Global Environment**

- We will argue for the EU to play a greater role in raising environmental standards worldwide, through providing support for the UN Environment Programme and for the enforcement of environmental conventions, such as those protecting endangered species, combating climate change, and controlling the trade in GM products.



### International

Britain can achieve far more by working with others than working alone. An internationalist approach is the best way to protect our freedom and our interests. We will work to build effective international and regional organisations to promote peace and freedom throughout the world, combat poverty and disease and tackle global environmental problems. Liberal Democrats will:

- Promote a foreign policy based on democracy, human rights and good governance
- Seek to make international institutions more able to address global security, trade and environmental issues
- Resist further erosion of Britain's defence capability while co-operating more closely with the country's allies

Events in one nation can have a profound impact on life in other countries. The world is no longer one of self-contained nation states. Britain has too often given aid and comfort to authoritarian regimes which oppress their people and threaten world stability. And as Britain's own defence capability has weakened, the country has been slow to pool resources with its allies.

### Foreign Policy

Britain stands at the centre of a web of global institutions. Our membership of the UN Security Council, the Commonwealth, the EU, NATO, and other global bodies gives Britain a key role in world affairs. But with power comes responsibility. We must not turn a blind eye to injustice nor support authoritarian regimes which oppress their people and threaten world stability. Britain's influence should be used to fight for human rights and equitable and peaceful relationships between nations.

The Liberal Democrat approach puts democratic values, human rights and good governance at the top of the foreign policy agenda. We will:

- End subsidies for arms sold to foreign regimes. We will put an end to the use of Export Credit Guarantees to support arms exports. We will establish a Parliamentary Arms Export Committee to monitor arms exports and scrutinise individual licence applications. We will

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require arms brokers to register under a Code of Conduct, and revoke the licences of those who break the code.

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- Take account of human rights and development needs in government policy. We will audit relevant government departments to ensure that policies on issues such as aid, arms sales and credit guarantees conform to the standards we have set.
- Give priority to conflict prevention. It should focus on traditional threats to security but also the consequences of environmental degradation, resource depletion, volatile markets and unfair trade. Preventive diplomacy will be given a higher priority in the budgets of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence.
- Continue the fight against slave labour. We will co-operate with international bodies like the International Labour Organisation to stamp out slavery.
- Maintain funding for the BBC World Service and the British Council. We will ensure that these two organisations, which have a vital role in spreading the values of freedom and democracy, receive proper funding.

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## International Security

We favour greater international co-operation to make the world a safer place and to uphold human rights in other countries. We will:

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- Seek to strengthen the powers of the UN. The UN needs a more active role in holding member states to account for gross and persistent breaches of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Too many UN Conventions and Security Council resolutions are flouted and ignored. We propose that the Secretary General conducts an audit to determine outstanding obligations and the action needed to comply with them.
- Ensure that the United Nations has the resources to act. We will promote the establishment of a Staff College based in Britain to train UN peacekeepers. We also advocate the formation of a UN Rapid Reaction Disaster Task Force to tackle both man-made and natural disasters.
- Work with Britain's partners in the Commonwealth to make it more effective in promoting conflict resolution, good governance and democratic values.

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- Support the International Criminal Court. If it is powerful and well resourced, the Court will enhance human rights. We will press opponents of the court to recognise its authority.

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## Defence

We are proud of Britain's record of defending democracy, and to remember those who have given their lives, we will make the day after Remembrance Sunday a public holiday. British armed forces rightly enjoy the respect of the world. It is essential to preserve that reputation. But as the country's own defence capability has shrunk since the end of the Cold War, it has been slow to pool resources with allies. Britain's capabilities must continue to adapt to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

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We will:

- Resist further erosion of our defence capability. We will maintain the current level of spending and resist any further reductions.
- Promote flexibility, mobility, rapid deployment and joint operations as the basis of Britain's defence policy, to enable the UK to honour Britain's commitments to the EU, NATO, the Commonwealth and the UN.
- Promote equal opportunities and family welfare in the armed forces. We will oppose unfair discrimination in the forces. We will review welfare policies in order to set minimum and consistent standards that can be applied at home and abroad for service families.
- Work for the elimination worldwide of all nuclear weapons. We will urge a new round of multilateral arms reduction talks, but will retain the UK's minimum nuclear deterrent for the foreseeable future.
- Oppose the National Missile Defence System (NMD). The system currently being proposed by the USA represents a threat to international stability and arms control agreements.
- Put in place a moratorium on the use of Depleted Uranium Shells until there is clear evidence regarding the health risks involved.

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## Trade, Aid and International Development

Genuinely liberal trade benefits all the countries of the world, rich and poor. We will press for a fairer global trading system, and do more to assist poor nations. We advocate effective aid policies

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to address the problems of developing countries and promote democracy and good governance.

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We will:

- Promote genuine liberal trade. The removal of barriers to trade has stimulated economic growth and prosperity throughout much of the world, and the World Trade Organisation has helped establish and maintain international rules which guarantee equal treatment for all members, large or small. However, trade liberalisation has sometimes been pursued at the expense of other objectives, such as environmental protection or public health. We will work to reform the WTO so that environmental objectives and principles are fully integrated into its activities and poorer countries are helped to participate fully within it.
- Encourage fair competition. We would press for a global competition authority within the WTO to encourage co-ordination of the anti-monopoly activities of individual nations to tackle the growing concentration of corporate monopoly power more effectively. We want world-wide agreement to reduce subsidies, common in areas such as fossil fuel production, agriculture, forestry and fisheries: this would encourage trade, open markets to poorer countries' exports and reduce environmental damage.
- Honour the UK's commitment to meet the UN target of increasing overseas aid to 0.7% over the next ten years. We support the moves already made by the British Government to reduce the debts of the poorest countries. But Britain could lead more rapid action on debt relief by bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Their Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes should attach at least as much importance to governments taking action to tackle poverty as to liberalising their economies.
- End links between aid and trade. Tied aid is a form of protectionism which inhibits development. We will subject all aid programmes to thorough assessment for their environmental, social and human rights consequences.
- Direct aid towards women. Women in developing countries face discrimination and economic exclusion. All aid packages should address gender inequality with a high priority for family planning and maternal health services.
- Step up the fight against HIV/AIDS. The AIDS pandemic is a global emergency which undermines economic development and threatens international security. We will increase backing for the development of an AIDS vaccine. Working with bodies such as the

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churches, we will support large-scale AIDS/HIV education programmes and press for mother-to-child AIDS treatment drugs to be made available cheaply.

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- Promote universal primary education. Education is essential to economic development. We will spearhead initiatives to increase the resources for basic education in developing countries. In return for financial support recipient countries should be obliged to reduce expenditure on arms.

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- Implement the OECD convention on bribery. We will allow UK registered companies to be prosecuted for bribery offences committed overseas.

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### Setting You Free

- Stop using taxpayers' money to support the arms trade by ending subsidies for arms sold to foreign regimes.

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### Green Action

- **Global Climate Change.** We will place Britain at the forefront of climate change negotiations, pressing other nations to ratify and implement the 1997 Kyoto protocol by the Rio+10 world summit in mid 2002. We will seek to extend its terms and targets further. We will ensure that Britain achieves its target well before the deadline, and establishes a new target of a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2010.

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- **Introduce Stronger Environmental Objectives** into the Common Agricultural Policy, lending and investment policies of the IMF, World Bank and regional development banks. WTO rules should respect environmental principles as long as these are applied in a non-protectionist way.

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- **Promote Sustainable Development.** We will ensure that environmental and social sustainability is a prime objective of aid and technology transfer policies.

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- **Improving Environmental Governance.** The Rio+10 summit in 2002 is an opportunity to improve the international community's ability to tackle environmental threats. We want a substantial increase in resources for the UN Environment Programme and for the implementation of environmental agreements. We also advocate a UN Economic and Environmental Security Council for Sustainability.

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Conservative 2005: “Are you thinking what we’re thinking?”

Chapter: Defending our Freedoms

### Defending our freedoms

Britain plays a unique role in the world. We are the only nation that is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, a net contributor to the European Union, a member of the G8, at the centre of the Commonwealth family of nations and a leading member of NATO. We are a global trading nation with interests in every continent. As the world's fourth largest economy, we have the potential to be a powerful force for good.

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These durable strengths allow Britain to defend our interests and promote our values across the globe.

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As a country, we have been in the vanguard of freedom's advance, a friend to the growth of democracy, an advocate of the rule of law, a defender of the oppressed and a robust protector of our people's security.

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But, under this Government, Britain's ability to defend its interests and secure valuable freedoms has been undermined. Our Armed Forces, the vital muscle which allows us to punch above our weight, have been allowed to weaken. And our relations with the European Union have been mismanaged in a way which threatens not just British interests, but the capacity of the continent to adapt flexibly to the future.

A Conservative Government will strengthen our Armed Forces within NATO by spending £2.7 billion more than Labour on the front line by 2007-08.

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Those serving in our Armed Forces are vitally important to us, so we must take care of the people most important to them. A Conservative Government will support service families. They deserve decent homes, good schools for their children, and the chance to spend as much time as possible with their families.

We will make the Army stronger. A Conservative Government will preserve the regiments Labour would abolish and improve the supply and procurement of weaponry.

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We will save warships Mr Blair would scrap. A Conservative Government will support European co-operation on defence but we strongly believe that such co-operation should take place within the framework of NATO.

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If a Conservative Government ever has to take the country to war, we will tell the British people why. Mr Blair misrepresented intelligence to make the case for war in Iraq, and failed to plan for the aftermath of Saddam Hussein's downfall. It is nevertheless the case that a democratic Iraq would be a powerful beacon of hope in a troubled part of the world. So we believe that Britain must remain committed to rebuilding Iraq and allowing democracy to take hold. And a Conservative Government will work to achieve peace in the Middle East based on the principle of Israel secure within its borders and a viable Palestinian state.

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Conservatives support the cause of reform in Europe and we will co-operate with all those who wish to see the EU evolve in a more flexible, liberal and decentralised direction. We oppose the EU Constitution and would give the British people the chance to reject its provisions in a referendum within six months of the General Election. We also oppose giving up the valuable freedom which control of our own currency gives us. We will not join the Euro.

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In a reformed Europe, the restrictive employment laws of the Social Chapter will have to give way to more flexible working. We will ensure that Britain once again leads the fight for a deregulated Europe by negotiating the restoration of our opt-out from the Social Chapter.

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The common policies on agriculture and fisheries are unsustainable, damaging to free trade and conservation, and waste huge sums of money. The CAP needs further and deeper reform. And, because fisheries would be better administered at the national level, we will negotiate to restore national and local control over British fishing grounds. We are determined to ensure national control in this area.

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We will also build on the success of enlargement, making Europe more diverse by working to bring in more nations, including Turkey. We value Britain's membership of the European Union, but our horizons extend much further. A key element of British foreign policy under a Conservative Government will be fighting world poverty. We will support further action on debt relief and will work to meet the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of national income on overseas aid by 2013. We believe that British aid programmes are among the best in the world, so we will negotiate to increase British national control over our international aid spending.

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Above all, we recognise that there is a vital thread that links open markets, free trade, property rights, the rule of law, democracy, economic development and social progress. We will use our global influence to champion these principles in the interests of the developing world.

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### Britain and the World

- No to the Euro and EU Constitution
- More and better aid to tackle global poverty
- Stronger Armed Forces
- Keeping NATO at the heart of our foreign policy

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Labour 2005: “Britain Forward, Not Back”

Chapter 7: International policy: A stronger country in a secure, sustainable and just world

### Forward to international leadership, not back to isolation and powerlessness

- 1997: Marginalised in Europe, aid in decline and Bosnia in ruins
- 2005: Aid doubled, elections in Iraq and Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia peaceful
- 2010: A strong Britain in a reforming Europe, 300 million out of poverty, global action on climate change

Globalisation means that events elsewhere have a direct impact at home. So we will pursue British interests by working with our allies to make the world a safer, fairer place. This means reforming Europe. It means fighting terrorism and stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction. It means modernising our armed forces. And it means using our leading role in the G8, EU, the Commonwealth and UN to promote global action on climate change and poverty.

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### The new Labour case

Domestic interests and international action are entwined more than ever before. Action on drugs, terrorism, people trafficking, AIDS, climate change, poverty, migration and trade all require us to work with other countries and through international organisations. The best defence of our security at home is the spread of liberty and justice overseas. In a third term we will secure Britain’s place in the EU and at the heart of international decision-making. We will always uphold the rule of international law.

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### Making Europe work better for Britain

We are proud of Britain’s EU membership and of the strong position Britain has achieved within Europe. British membership of the EU brings jobs, trade and prosperity; it boosts environmental standards, social protection and international clout. Since 1997 we have gone from marginal players, often ignored, to leaders in the European Union. Working hard with Labour MEPs, we are determined to remain leaders. Outside the EU, or on its margins, we would unquestionably be weaker and more vulnerable.

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The EU now has 25 members and will continue to expand. The new Constitutional Treaty ensures the new Europe can work effectively, and that Britain keeps control of key national interests like foreign policy, taxation, social security and defence. The Treaty sets out what the EU can do and what it cannot. It strengthens the voice of national parliaments and governments in EU affairs. It is a good treaty for Britain and for the new Europe. We will put it to the British people in a referendum and campaign whole-heartedly for a 'Yes' vote to keep Britain a leading nation in Europe.

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We will also work to reform Europe. During Britain's EU presidency this year, we will work to promote economic reform, bear down on regulation; make progress in the Doha development trade round; bring closer EU membership for Turkey, the Balkans and Eastern Europe; and improve the focus and quality of EU aid so it better helps the poorest countries.

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We will continue to lead European defence cooperation. We will build stronger EU defence capabilities, in harmony with NATO – the cornerstone of our defence policy – without compromising our national ability to act independently. We will ensure the new EU battle groups are equipped and organised to act quickly to save lives in humanitarian crises.

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On the euro, we maintain our common-sense policy. The determining factor underpinning any government decision is the national economic interest and whether the case for joining is clear and unambiguous. The five economic tests must be met before any decision to join can be made. If the Government were to recommend joining, it would be put to a vote in Parliament and a referendum of the British people.

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### Protecting British interests and British citizens abroad

We will continue to provide effective support to British businesses and trade unions abroad, and we will continue to improve our ability to respond quickly to international crises and disasters which affect our citizens. The Foreign Office already provides a wide range of services for British people in difficulty overseas, and we will consult widely before drawing up a comprehensive

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statement spelling out the rights and responsibilities of British travellers abroad. This will include the help that people can expect from their government in times of need.

### Helping make you more secure

We have worked closely with the US and other nations to combat the threat of terrorism in Afghanistan and in Iraq. The threat of the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons – and their use by rogue states or terrorist groups – is a pressing issue for the world today. We have worked with the US to ensure that Libya has given up its WMD, and we will continue with France and Germany to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons. In North Korea, we will support the multilateral approach of the Six Parties talks. We will continue to strongly support the peace process between India and Pakistan, and back moves to resolve the long-running dispute over Kashmir. And we will work to put an end to the international network of trade in weapons of mass destruction. Labour has already introduced a strict regime to control the export of conventional weapons, and we led moves for EU-wide measures. We will work actively to secure an international treaty on the arms trade.

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### Promoting human rights, peace and democracy

We need to be tough on terrorism and its causes. The threat of terrorism and the danger to British citizens is proven, not just by September 11th but by repeated attacks in Europe and around the world. So we cannot sit back and hope that we will be unaffected. It is right that we do everything in our power to disrupt terrorist networks, and to challenge the conditions that help terrorism to breed.

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The UN Charter proclaims the universal principles of human rights and democracy. In an uncertain world they are not only right in principle, they are important guarantees of our national security and prosperity too.

There have been major strides forward in recent years: in Indonesia, Afghanistan and many parts of Africa and Latin America, democracy is being extended.

We mourn the loss of life of innocent civilians and coalition forces in the war in Iraq and the subsequent terrorism. But the butchery of Saddam is over and across Iraq, eight million people risked their lives to vote earlier this year. Many people disagreed with the action we took in Iraq. We respect and understand their views. But we should all now unite to support the fledgling democracy in Iraq. British troops should remain in Iraq under a United Nations mandate as long as the democratically elected government there wants them. They will continue to train Iraqi security forces to take responsibility for their own future.

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We welcome the wider process of democratic reform across the Middle East, and we will work with our allies to encourage and promote economic and political change.

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We strongly support the peace process between Israel and Palestine. Resolution of the conflict is crucial to peace in the region and the wider world. The conference held in London in March 2005 has started the process of helping a democratic government in Palestine build security and prosperity. We will work tirelessly to bring about a peace settlement in which a viable and independent state of Palestine lives alongside a safe and secure Israel.

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### Supporting our armed forces

Britain's armed forces are among the best in the world. They are able to play a key role in advancing our interests and values. We want to keep it that way.

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We are immensely proud of the bravery, skill and dedication our armed forces have demonstrated in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sierra Leone, the Balkans and elsewhere across the world. They are a force for good. We will never commit forces to battle unless it is essential; but when they are committed they will have the investment, strategy, training and preparation they need. That is one reason we have given the armed forces the biggest sustained increase in funding since the end of the Cold War. But we also know that modern demands on our armed forces are changing. That is why reform and modernisation are essential. A reduction in the number of infantry battalions, made possible because of the improved security situation in Northern Ireland, has allowed extra resources for the vital support services such as signals, engineers, intelligence and logistics units – the parts of the army most under pressure. This is essential to allow our infantry soldiers to be

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fully supported when they go into action on our behalf. We will continue with the investment and reform that make our fighting forces the most flexible and effective in the world.

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We are also committed to retaining the independent nuclear deterrent and we will continue to work, both bilaterally and through the UN, to urge states not yet party to non-proliferation treaties, notably the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to join.

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(arms)

### Veterans

Labour has always recognised the sacrifice and bravery of our service- men and women. That is why we were the first government to appoint a Minister for Veterans Affairs. This has enabled us to put veterans' affairs at the heart of decision-making at the Ministry of Defence. Labour has also put more money than ever before into veterans' issues, including £27 million of Lottery funding over the last two years. We will continue to give priority to veterans' affairs as we mark 60 years since the end of the Second World War.

### Reforming the United Nations

The UN is crucial to our efforts to build a more secure and more prosperous world. We support the reform of the Security Council so it becomes more representative and has a stronger focus on conflict prevention. We support the recommendation of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel for a Peace-building Commission to assist countries emerging from conflict and to develop mechanisms to enhance conflict prevention. We will press for more radical reform of the UN humanitarian system, so it is better equipped to save lives. We will also press for reform of the World Bank and IMF to improve transparency, give more say to developing countries and, with the EU better focus their efforts on the poorest countries, particularly in Africa.

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### Climate change and Africa

Britain has the chair of the G8 this year. We will use the summit for two particular purposes.

First, climate change is the one of the most pressing challenges that the world faces. We will continue to lead internationally on climate change, and to strive for wider acceptance of the science and the steps needed to combat the problem. We will look beyond Kyoto and promote an

international dialogue to reach agreement on the long-term goals and action needed to stabilise the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We will also work for effective international action to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

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The UK has already met its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. We remain committed to achieving a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions on 1990 levels by 2010, and our review of progress this summer will show us how to get back on track. A 60 per cent reduction by 2050 remains necessary and achievable.

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We will continue to promote and develop renewable energy sources, to seek high standards of energy efficiency in the public and private sectors, and to support emissions trading in Europe and beyond.

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Secondly, we will focus on Africa and the global fight against poverty.

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We have more than doubled aid since 1997. We have cancelled the debts of the poorest countries and are now pushing others to follow our lead and offer 100 per cent debt relief for the poorest. We are proud to have established a Department for International Development, with a clear mission to reduce poverty. Now, for the first time ever the UK has a clear timetable – 2013 – for achieving the UN target of 0.7 per cent of national income devoted to development. Globally we are pressing for a doubling of aid backed by getting international agreement to an International Finance Facility as supported by the Commission for Africa.

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But aid will not be successful without conflict prevention, good governance and zero tolerance of corruption. We will work for faster repatriation of stolen assets from UK financial institutions, ratification of the UN Convention on corruption, and more open and accountable reporting of revenues from oil and mining – that so often fuel local conflicts. Our commitment is to the people of the developing world; our contract is with their governments for reform. But if poor countries are committed to good governance and poverty reduction we then believe they should be in control of their own policies. We will end the practice of making aid conditional on sensitive economic policy choices, such as trade liberalisation and privatisation.

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With this leadership and extra money, we can now work to ensure all children go to school, and millions of people in Asia and Africa suffering from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria have access to treatment. In particular, we will press for an international agreement on universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010 and for all people in poor countries to have access to free basic healthcare and education.

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Our long-term aim is to help lift a billion people out of poverty.

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### Fair trade

We also know that without fairer trade rules and private investment, poor countries will not generate the growth needed to lift themselves out of poverty. We will press for the conclusion of an ambitious trade deal that will completely open markets to exports from poorer countries; for further reform of rich countries' agricultural subsidies, including the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and a 2010 timetable to end agricultural export subsidies. We do not believe poor countries should be forced to liberalise. We will allow them to sequence their trade reforms, so they can build their capacity to compete globally.

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### The choice for 2010

In 1997 the Tories had left Britain isolated in Europe, overseas aid had declined and we lacked any coherent vision of our place in the world. With Labour, a strong Britain will force international terrorism into retreat and help spread democracy and freedom around the world. We will be leaders in a reformed Europe, and, with others, make significant progress towards raising a billion people out of extreme poverty. We will fight for a new global agreement on climate change, an arms trade treaty, and a trade deal that makes trade work for the many, not just the few. Our armed forces will continue to be the best in the world. The alternative is to go back to the Tories with their record of cuts in aid and defence and their policies of tearing up the Social Chapter, and marginalising Britain in Europe and the world.

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Liberal Democrats 2005: “The Real Alternative”

Chapter: Britain’s Place in Europe and the World

### Britain’s place in Europe and the world

It is often said that foreign affairs is not a determining issue in UK elections.

But on this occasion the conduct of Britain’s foreign affairs, particularly in relation to Iraq, goes right to the heart of the Labour Government’s credibility.

“Both at home and abroad trust has been eroded, and Britain’s reputation diminished. It need not have been so. Britain, as a member of the G8, the Security Council of the United Nations, the European Union, NATO and the Commonwealth, has a unique opportunity to be a force for good in the world. British practice has been one of operating through multilateral institutions – and experience shows that when Britain does this, it provides leadership and influence.

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“But Britain was taken to war against Iraq without express UN authority and on a flawed prospectus. The Government built its case on unreliable intelligence, in circumstances of doubtful legality. Who would have thought that Labour would lead the country into a war which has been compared to the fiasco of Suez?

“This must never be allowed to happen again. The work of rebuilding trust and confidence should begin immediately. We can start by committing ourselves to the reforms of the United Nations set out in the High-Level Panel’s sagacious report. We can influence the whole of the Middle East by an unwavering commitment to peace between Israel and the Palestinians. We can sharpen the focus on assistance for the poorest countries in the world through aid, debt relief and trade. We can pursue the cause of human rights wherever they are abused and neglected.

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“We can truly put ourselves at the heart of Europe and at the heart of its reform. We can make sure that British arms exports neither encourage conflict nor assist repression. We can fashion a new relationship with the United States: a partnership of influence, not one of uncritical subordination. We can base foreign policy on liberal values, respect for the rule of law, and human rights.

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“I believe that only in this way can we maximise Britain’s influence, and restore Britain’s reputation.”

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Sir Menzies Campbell

Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary

### **We should not have gone to war in Iraq**

There were no weapons of mass destruction, there was no serious and current threat, and inspectors were denied the time they needed to finish their job. Thousands of soldiers and civilians have been killed and it has cost the UK over £3.5 billion. Britain must never again support an illegal military intervention. But by invading Iraq the Government has imposed on us a moral obligation to work towards a stable, secure and free Iraq. We welcome the recent elections. We will seek to strengthen and enlarge Iraqi security forces so that they can assume greater responsibility, include Sunni leaders in the political process, and ensure adequate provision of food, water, sanitation and health care for all the Iraqi people. We will support the transition to a fully democratic and legitimate government, aiming to withdraw British troops by the expiry of the UN mandate at the end of the year; the open-ended presence of coalition forces is destabilising and fuels the insurgency.

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### **Build security at home and abroad**

The best way to achieve security and to tackle the threat from terrorism is through international action. Britain must work through the United Nations, as a committed member of the EU, and with the US to promote international law, democracy and respect for human rights. We will work to reform the UN and the EU to make them more responsive to international challenges.

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“The other parties like to posture. We think it’s time for common sense. In the modern world, Britain is more prosperous and secure in Europe. But we need to make Europe work more effectively – through more democracy, more openness, less waste, and less bureaucracy. That’s our Liberal Democrat vision for a strong Britain in a strong Europe, a powerful voice in the world.”

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Sajjad Karim & Fiona Hall

Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament

## Europe

### Make Europe more effective and democratic

Membership of the EU has been hugely important for British jobs, environmental protection, equality rights, and Britain's place in the world. But with enlargement to twenty-five member states, the EU needs reform to become more efficient and more accountable. The new constitution helps to achieve this by improving EU coherence, strengthening the powers of the elected European Parliament compared with the Council of Ministers, allowing proper oversight of the unelected Commission, and enhancing the role of national parliaments. It also more clearly defines and limits the powers of the EU, reflecting diversity and preventing over-centralisation. We are therefore clear in our support for the constitution, which we believe is in Britain's interest – but ratification must be subject to a referendum of the British people.

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## Defence

### Our troops protect the nation – we must protect them

Britain's armed forces protect the country and are a force for good in the world. But with increasing overseas commitments, they are overstretched. The Government should not be cutting the size of the armed forces while at the same time asking them to take on ever more difficult tasks. New equipment continues to arrive late and over-budget, so we will make military procurement more open and competitive. By switching funding from unnecessary programmes, for example by cutting the third tranche of the Eurofighter programme, we will be able to invest more in protecting the welfare of the armed forces, ensuring that they are well-trained and well-equipped. We will seek new ways of sharing the military burden, by working with allies through NATO and the EU. Liberal Democrats will be realistic about what Britain can, and should, take on, and British forces must always be able to deal with emergencies at home, such as terrorism or natural disasters.

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### Work for the elimination of nuclear weapons and tackle the arms trade

We will press for a new round of multilateral arms reduction talks, retaining the UK's current minimum nuclear deterrent for the foreseeable future, until sufficient progress has been made towards the global elimination of such weapons. Arms sales contribute to conflict, so we will establish a cross-party Parliamentary Arms Export Committee to monitor arms exports and

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scrutinise individual licence applications. We will require arms brokers to register under a code of conduct and revoke the licences of those who break the code. We will support the establishment of an International Arms Trade Treaty.

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## Green action

### Promote environmentally sustainable development

We will make sure that development assistance, whether delivered from the UK, EU, or multilateral institutions, not only meets the needs of the poor, but does so in ways that contribute to environmental sustainability. This means, in particular, targeting aid on renewable energy, clean water and sustainable agriculture, and increasing market access for green products from the developing world. We will devote resources to protecting biodiversity in developing countries, where many species of rare plants and wildlife are seriously endangered.

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### Put Britain at the forefront of climate change negotiations

Catastrophic climate change is the major environmental threat to the planet. Urgent action is needed. Liberal Democrat plans will make sure that Britain achieves its targets from the Kyoto Protocol (the international agreement on the pollution that causes climate change) well before the deadline.

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Britain and the EU must take the lead on negotiations for the next set of targets for greenhouse gas emissions. It is vital that we include the US and Australia but we also need to work with developing countries. Our long-term goal is 'contraction and convergence' – which means agreeing for every country a sustainable population-related allowance for emissions.

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### Take effective action to protect the global environment

We will work through the EU to promote effective and enforceable international agreements to protect the global environment, such as the Cartagena Protocol (on GM products). We will support international agreements and activities designed to stop international environmental crime, such as illegal logging or illegal trade in endangered wildlife, and improve customs training to tackle these illegal activities more effectively. We will argue for reforms of the World Trade

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Organisation, World Bank and International Monetary Fund to make sure that trade and development policies support rather than hinder environmental sustainability.

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### International development

“Liberal Democrat international development policy is built on two foundations. First, we believe that this country has the wealth to help those much poorer than ourselves, and should do so. Second, we believe that we all benefit from achievement of sustainable development in the poorest countries in the world.

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“This country has never lived up to the promise it made long ago to devote 0.7 per cent of its annual income to aid; it is time that it did. The response of the British people to the Asian tsunami disaster was extraordinarily generous – but every day millions of families around the world are caught up in similar tragedies of famine, drought, war and terrible poverty. So it is time Britain lived up to its promises, to build the sustainable development to end such poverty once and for all.

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“But it is not just about aid. For example, opening European markets to the products of the poorest countries helps their economies and lifts them out of poverty. Stopping subsidised European food being dumped helps their farmers prosper and grow more. Neither policy would cost a penny.

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“We need to reform international institutions to make them more responsive to developing country needs; make aid more productive; make trade fairer; and take action to promote good governance, the rule of law and human rights.

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“The people of this country have an outstanding record of helping those in need around the world. It is time for our government to match their commitment.”

Tom Brake

Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for International Development

### Meet Britain’s promise on aid

Liberal Democrats are committed to realising a world free from poverty. In order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015 (which include tackling extreme poverty and hunger, providing universal primary education, and combating HIV/ AIDS) the UK needs to provide more effective international assistance. Liberal Democrats will increase British aid spending from 0.35 per cent of Gross National Income today to at least 0.5 per cent by 2007/08, and set out detailed plans for it to reach 0.7 per cent by 2011 at the latest.

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### **Fair and sustainable trade and investment**

Working through the EU and the World Trade Organisation, we will seek to remove the subsidies and tariff barriers that prevent the poorest countries in the world selling their goods on fair terms. We will work to end the dumping of subsidised agricultural exports by developed economies which is wrecking farming in Africa and other parts of the world. We will work to make sure that agreements to liberalise new sectors proceed on a genuinely voluntary basis, without undue pressure on developing countries. We will require companies benefiting from open markets to behave responsibly, and we will promote a new international agreement to encourage investment, particularly in the poorest countries.

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### A stronger Britain in a safer world

A Conservative government will defend our national security and support our brave Armed Forces in everything they do. We will promote our national interest with an active foreign policy. We will work constructively with the EU, but we will not hand over any more areas of power and we will never join the Euro. We will honour our aid commitments and make sure this money works for the poorest nations.

This country possesses great assets and advantages – a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, a leading role in NATO, a strong relationship with the United States, a major role in the affairs of the EU, and armed forces that are the envy of the world. We are a global trading nation and home to the world’s pre-eminent language.

But, looking a decade or two ahead, powerful forces of economics and demography elsewhere in the world will make it harder for us to maintain our influence. All this in a world that is becoming more dangerous, where threats as diverse as state failure, international terrorism and new forms of warfare are being amplified by the impact of climate change and the spread of nuclear weapons technology. In a world of shifting economic power and increased threats, the UK stands to lose a great deal of its ability to shape world affairs unless we act to reverse our declining status.

We no longer inhabit a world in which foreign and defence issues can be separated from domestically-generated threats. Instead, we live in a world in which dangers, events and actions abroad are inter-dependent with threats to our security at home. We must meet the threats we face with a concerted response from the state. That response cannot just come from how we conduct our foreign affairs, or organise our defence and internal security – it must cut across energy, education, community cohesion, health, technology, international development and the environment too.

### Defend our security

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We will create a National Security Council to oversee all aspects of our security, chaired by the Prime Minister. We are committed to succeeding in our mission in Afghanistan and will not leave our Forces without the resources they need to fulfil this goal. We will repair the Military Covenant with a series of measures to support service personnel, their families and veterans.

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Labour have failed to deliver a unified and coherent approach to national security. They have not even kept their promise of a comprehensive national Security budget. Their incompetence places our nation at risk. Despite fighting two major wars in the last decade, Labour have cut the target for the trained strength of the army, shrunk the size of the Navy by a fifth and run down the RAF.

The men and women of our Armed Forces are the ones charged with protecting our nation's security. But Labour's dangerous mismanagement has endangered lives and harmed Britain's capacity to defend itself. Labour have been too slow to provide the equipment, such as helicopters, which our forces on operations have badly needed. Our brave men and women, their families, and our veterans deserve the best for putting their lives on the line to protect our liberties. We will ensure they get the best.

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### **A resilient nation**

We understand the severity of the threats that exist and will do all we can to make Britain safe. We will establish a national Security Council to co-ordinate responses to the dangers we face, which will be chaired by the Prime minister. In addition, we will:

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- create a national Security adviser and a new national resilience team for homeland Security;
- develop a national Security Strategy and oversee a Strategic Defence and Security review that implements that strategy; and,
- establish a new Permanent military Command for homeland Defence and Security to provide a more structured military contribution to homeland security.

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Terrorism remains a major threat to our country and some of the biggest threats to our security do not come from abroad – they are home grown. A Conservative government will ban any organisations which advocate hate or the violent overthrow of our society, such as Hizb-ut-Tahrir, and close down organisations which attempt to fund terrorism from the UK. In Northern Ireland,

we will continue to give our fullest support to the police and other agencies in their efforts to combat the threat from dissident republican and other terrorist organisations.

### Support our brave armed forces

Our mission in Afghanistan is vital to our national security. Success in Afghanistan will be achieved when it is a more stable state, able to manage its own security, resist outside interference, and prevent terrorists from using its territory as a safe haven. We will always ensure our forces have the resources they need to carry out their mission properly, and we will press other members of NATO to take their fair share of the military burden. The training of Afghanistan's own security forces is key to the success of the mission, and we will continue to make it a priority.

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Our Strategic Defence and Security review will ensure that resources for our armed forces are matched to our foreign policy requirements. We support the decision to renew Britain's submarine-based nuclear deterrent, based on the Trident missile system.

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The hopeless mismanagement of defence procurement by this government has wasted billions of taxpayers' money and left our armed forces underequipped and dangerously exposed. We will review the structure of the Ministry of Defence to reduce running costs by 25 per cent. We will reform the procurement process to ensure the delivery of equipment on time and on budget. We will release spending on unnecessary and bureaucratic EU defence initiatives and spend the money on our armed forces. As part of that process, we will re-evaluate our position with the European Defence Agency.

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Our commitment to look after the Armed Forces and their families – the Military Covenant – has been allowed to fall into disrepair. This is one of the most damning failures of Gordon Brown's government. We will restore the Military Covenant and ensure that our armed forces, their families and veterans are properly taken care of. To make that happen, we will:

- Double the operational allowance;
- Maximise rest and recuperation leave;
- Ensure our servicemen and women are treated in dedicated military wards in hospital;



- Change the rules so that service personnel are not locked out of the voting system by rules that Labour have introduced;
- Use ‘pupil level annual school census’ data to include service children within our plans for a pupil premium in schools, ensuring they attract extra funding;
- Provide university and further education scholarships for the children of servicemen and women killed while on active duty, backdated to 1990;
- Pilot a mental health follow-up service for those who have left the services; and,
- Review the rules governing the awarding of medals.

### Iran

In Iran, hundreds of thousands of citizens calling for democratic reforms are using new technologies to come together, coordinate their protests against the state, and communicate with the outside world. The power of these information flows is growing rapidly. Every time the Iranian state has tried to choke the flow of information to dampen down the protests, people have turned to new technologies to share and access information. When the state cut off text messaging services, protesters switched to social media like twitter and Facebook. When foreign journalists had their visas removed and had to leave the country, Iranians began to upload video clips onto Youtube so that the government’s actions could continue to be scrutinised. and when the government tried to ban popular websites, private citizens outside Iran set up proxy internet servers so that Iranians could continue to access information.

### A liberal Conservative foreign policy

We have great national assets and advantages to help us make the most of the opportunities we face and to deal with challenges. We will engage positively with the world to deepen alliances and build new partnerships. We will help reform international institutions, help those in need, and play our part in tackling climate change and the proliferation of military nuclear technology.

A Conservative government’s approach to foreign affairs will be based on liberal Conservative principles. Liberal, because Britain must be open and engaged with the world, supporting human rights and championing the cause of democracy and the rule of law at every opportunity. But

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Conservative, because our policy must be hard-headed and practical, dealing with the world as it is and not as we wish it were.

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Our approach to foreign affairs is based on a belief in freedom, human rights and democracy. We are sceptical about grand utopian schemes to remake the world. We will work patiently with the grain of other societies, but we will always support liberal values because they provide the foundations for stability and prosperity.

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Protecting Britain's enlightened national interest requires global engagement. We will be safer if our values are strongly upheld and widely respected in the world. Our national identity is bound up in our historic global role as an outward-looking nation, giving generously to developing countries, and providing a safe haven to genuine refugees.

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It is not in our character to have a foreign policy without a conscience or to turn our back on the millions who live in poverty and conflict.

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### Promote our enlightened national interest

A Conservative government will champion a distinctive British foreign policy. We will renew and reinforce our engagement with the rest of the world and build up British influence by deepening our alliances beyond Europe and the United States, not only diplomatically but in culture, education, commerce and security.

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A Conservative government will always speak up for freedom and human rights. Torture is unacceptable and abhorrent, and we will never condone it.

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We will support humanitarian intervention when it is practical and necessary, while working with other countries to prevent conflict arising.

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Promoting Britain's interests and values means developing and strengthening our alliances and reforming international institutions. To achieve these goals, we will:

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- work to establish a new special relationship with India, the world's largest democracy;

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- seek closer engagement with China while standing firm on human rights;

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- elevate our relationships with many friendly nations, including in the Middle East, as well as North Africa, South Asia and Latin America;
- press to keep the EU's doors open to those countries, including Turkey, that wish to join, conditional on the rigorous application of the accession criteria;
- support permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council for Japan, India, Germany, Brazil and African representation; and,
- strengthen the Commonwealth as a focus for promoting democratic values and development.

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We will work with our allies across the world to prevent conflict and secure peace. We will maintain a strong, close and frank relationship with the United States. We will work closely with other European countries to establish a common approach to common problems, such as climate change. We will be committed to NATO as the ultimate guarantor of Europe's security. To ensure our global security further, we will:

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- work towards greater stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan;
- support concerted international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon;
- support a two-state solution to the middle east Peace Process;
- promote stability in the Western Balkans;
- always be ready to assist Cypriots in their efforts to agree a just, balanced and lasting settlement to reunite their island; and,
- play our part in efforts to make the world safer from the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation.

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### **An open and democratic Europe**

We will be positive members of the European Union but we are clear that there should be no further extension of the EU's power over the UK without the British people's consent. We will ensure that by law no future government can hand over areas of power to the EU or join the Euro without a referendum of the British people. We will work to bring back key powers over legal rights, criminal justice and social and employment legislation to the UK.

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The European Union has done much to reconcile the painful division of Europe and to spread democracy and the rule of law across our continent. But it should not rest on those achievements.

European countries need to work together to boost global economic growth, fight global poverty, and combat global climate change. The European Union has a crucial part to play in enabling the countries of Europe to meet these great challenges of the 21st century. A Conservative government will play an active and energetic role in the European Union to advance these causes.

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We will stand for open markets, and a strong transatlantic relationship; for an EU that looks out to the world, and that builds strong and open relations with rising powers like China and India. And, like every other member State, we will fight our corner to promote our national interests.

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We believe Britain's interests are best served by membership of a European Union that is an association of its member States. We will never allow Britain to slide into a federal Europe. Labour's ratification of the Lisbon Treaty without the consent of the British people has been a betrayal of this country's democratic traditions. In government, we will put in place a number of measures to make sure this shameful episode can never happen again.

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### Restore democratic control

In future, the British people must have their say on any transfer of powers to the European Union. We will amend the 1972 European Communities Act so that any proposed future treaty that transferred areas of power, or competences, would be subject to a referendum – a 'referendum lock'. A Conservative government would never take the UK into the euro. Our amendment to the 1972 act will prevent any future government from doing so without a referendum.

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Unlike other European countries, the UK does not have a written constitution. We will introduce a United Kingdom Sovereignty Bill to make it clear that ultimate authority stays in this country, in our Parliament.

The Lisbon treaty contains a number of so-called 'ratchet clauses', which allow the powers of the EU to expand in the future without a new treaty. We do not believe that any of these 'ratchet

clauses' should be used to hand over more powers from Britain to the EU. So a Conservative government will not agree to the UK's participation in the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's Office or permit its jurisdiction over the UK. We will change the 1972 act so that an act of Parliament would be required before any 'ratchet clause' could be used. Additionally, the use of a major 'ratchet clause' which amounted to the transfer of an area of power to the EU would be subject to a referendum.

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The steady and unaccountable intrusion of the European Union into almost every aspect of our lives has gone too far. A Conservative government will negotiate for three specific guarantees – on the Charter of fundamental rights, on criminal justice, and on social and employment legislation – with our European partners to return powers that we believe should reside with the UK, not the EU. We seek a mandate to negotiate the return of these powers from the EU to the UK.

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### Project Umubano

Every summer for the past three years, the Conservative Party has been running 'Project Umubano' in Rwanda. Over that period, Conservative MPs and volunteers have provided English lessons to 3,000 Rwandan primary school teachers, renovated a school, established a small medical library at Kirambi Health Centre, and built a community centre. Project Umubano is a sign of our commitment to one World Conservatism, and our belief in the positive power of social action.

### One World Conservatism

We will honour our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of national income in aid, and ensure our aid is transparent and properly targeted. We will spend at least £500 million a year to tackle malaria. Both the British people and those who receive aid will get more control over how it is spent. We will push for a trade deal which brings growth to the poorest countries, helps those countries adapt to climate change, and puts in place the building blocks of wealth creation.

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The global downturn has shaken up rich and poor countries alike. For poor countries, it threatens to undermine a decade's growth and poverty reduction. For rich countries, it puts new pressures on household and government budgets – nowhere more so than in the UK, where Labour's appalling mismanagement of the economy has saddled us with unprecedented levels of debt. But

we should use this opportunity to reaffirm, not abandon, our values – which is why we will continue to increase the level of British aid. We will do so because it is in our national interest, as well as being the right thing to do.

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### **Deliver on our commitment to the world's poorest nations**

A new Conservative government will be fully committed to achieving, by 2013, the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of national income as aid. We will stick to the rules laid down by the OECD about what spending counts as aid. We will legislate in the first session of a new Parliament to lock in this level of spending for every year from 2013.

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We support the Millennium Development goals and will continue to work towards them. We will maintain an independent Department for International Development (DFID) and keep aid untied from commercial interests. We will be completely transparent about the cost and performance of DfiD programmes by independently evaluating programmes and by introducing, where appropriate, payment by results.

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Our bargain with taxpayers is this: in return for contributing your hard-earned money to helping the world's poorest people, it is our duty to spend every penny of aid effectively. We will ensure British aid money is properly spent by publishing full details of British aid on the DfiD website. This will include spending data on a project-by-project basis, published in an open and standardised format so that it can be used by third party websites. In addition, we will work to bring about improved transparency of aid spending by other development organisations.

We will create a new MyAid fund to allow British people a direct say on aid spending, as well as giving people in developing countries more say over how aid is spent in their communities.

Under Labour, our aid funding is not used in a focused way, and is sometimes spent in countries that should be looking after their own poor citizens. So we will stop giving aid to China and Russia and review which other countries should get British aid. We will focus more on the poorest, paying particular attention to development within the Commonwealth.

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A key aim of our aid is to make sure everyone gets access to the basics: clean water, sanitation, healthcare and education. We will focus particularly on the rights of women, children and disabled people to access these services. Malaria continues to kill nearly a million people per year, despite the fact that it is easily preventable and treatable. So, as part of our commitment to increase aid funding, a Conservative government will spend at least £500 million per year tackling malaria and will strongly support efforts to develop a malaria vaccine.

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Trade and economic growth are the only sustainable way for developing countries to escape poverty, which is why we will put maximum effort into achieving an ambitious, pro-development global trade deal. Our aid programme will help poor countries put in place the building blocks of wealth creation: property rights, effective public services, stability and the rule of law.

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We will provide a more integrated approach to post-conflict reconstruction where the British military is involved – building on the Stabilisation Unit in Whitehall and creating a new Stabilisation and reconstruction force to bridge the gap between the military and the reconstruction effort.

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To help deliver on our commitment to developing countries, we will:

- Establish a Poverty Impact Fund to support innovative and effective British poverty-fighting groups which do not currently qualify for government funding;
- explore ways to help the very poorest developing countries take part in international climate change negotiations, and work to make our aid ‘climate-smart’;
- end Labour’s use of the Export Credit Guarantee Department to support investment in dirty fossil fuel power stations, and instead use it to help spread new green energy technology to developing countries; and,
- encourage the establishment of a Pan-African free trade area, which has the potential to transform that continent’s economies.

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Chapter 10: A Global Future: Meeting the challenges of a new global age

**The challenge for Britain**

To harness our strengths and values, as we develop Britain’s world role in a global era, using our alliances and networks in order to promote security, economic prosperity, development and to safeguard the environment. The contrast with the Tory view could not be starker: they are stuck in the past, spurning alliances in Europe and helpless to defend our interests or secure the global change we need.

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**The next stage of national renewal**

- Conduct a Strategic Defence Review to equip our Armed Forces for 21st Century challenges, and support our troops and veterans.
- Use our international reach to build security and stability – combating terrorism and extremism, curbing proliferation, preventing and resolving conflict, and tackling climate change.
- Lead the agenda for an outward-facing European Union that delivers jobs, prosperity and global influence.
- Re-energise the drive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, supporting sustainable growth and combating poverty.
- Reform the UN, International Financial Institutions, the G8 and G20, and NATO to adapt to the new global challenges.

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**Afghanistan: our commitment**

There is no greater responsibility than to commit our troops into action. That is why we take our responsibilities in Afghanistan and to our Armed Forces so seriously. A stable Afghanistan and a stable Pakistan means a safer Britain: if Afghanistan fell to the Taleban, Al Qaeda could regroup, and Pakistan’s stability and our national security would be threatened.

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Our Armed Forces are serving with incredible courage and skill alongside representatives of more than 40 other nations. They are a credit to the country and an example to the world. We have met every request for extra equipment for Afghanistan: in the last four years we have doubled the number of helicopters, and spent £1.7 billion on 1,800 new vehicles – including the Mastiff, brought into service in record time and saving lives with world-leading protection against mines and roadside bombs.

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Our forces are working to a clear strategy – to protect the Afghan people and train Afghan security forces. The London conference in January 2010 agreed there should be 300,000 Afghan Army and Police by the end of 2011, with British forces and other countries shifting more of their effort into training to begin the process of handing over responsibility for districts and provinces to Afghan forces later this year.

Afghanistan is not a war without end. Together the military and civilian effort is designed to create the conditions for a political settlement that keeps Al Qaeda out, reconciles tribal interests, and involves Afghanistan's neighbours. It will lock in the long-term gains delivered by our aid programme since 2002 – with millions more children, especially girls, going to school, big reductions in child mortality, and better access to basic healthcare. It requires stronger local administration and less corruption, combined with a way back for former fighters who are prepared to renounce links to Al Qaeda and abide by the Afghan constitution.

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### **Strengthening our Armed Forces and national security**

The first duty of government is to protect the security of its citizens. We have created Britain's first ever National Security Strategy to strengthen our response to fast-moving and interconnected threats, from terrorism and nuclear proliferation to new challenges like cybersecurity. We have trebled investment in counter- terrorism at home, combined with multilateral action against terrorism and extremism abroad, not just in the Afghan- Pakistan border areas – still the main source of the threat – but also in Yemen and Somalia.

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Our commitment to defence is non-negotiable. Defence spending has increased by ten per cent in real terms since 1997. Funding for Iraq and Afghanistan is additional to that, with the Treasury Reserve providing £18 billion in total so far and an estimated £5 billion in the next year.

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Despite this continued investment, acute cost pressures remain in long-term defence projects. We are reforming defence procurement, making further reductions in civilian staff, and cutting lower-priority spending on headquarters costs, travel and consultancy.

A Strategic Defence Review will look at all areas of defence, but we will maintain our independent nuclear deterrent. We will fight for multilateral disarmament, working for a world free of nuclear weapons, in the Non Proliferation Treaty Review conference and beyond – combining support for civilian nuclear energy with concerted action against proliferation.

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We are committed to a strong Navy based on the new aircraft carriers, an Air Force with two state-of-the-art fast-jet fleets as well as additional helicopters, transport planes and unmanned drones, and a strong, high-tech Army, vastly better equipped than it was in 1997.

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The growth in the core defence budget has also enabled us to guarantee fair pay for all our forces, including the first ever tax-free bonus for those on operations abroad, while strengthening our support for their welfare. Service families can now retain their place on NHS waiting lists when they are deployed to another part of the country. Further education is free for those leaving the forces with six years' service or more.

We have invested hundreds of millions of pounds to reverse a legacy of decades of neglect of forces' accommodation, and we are helping service personnel get onto the housing ladder. Homelessness among service leavers has been sharply reduced, and the law changed to give them better access to social housing.

The new Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham will have a military-run ward and the largest single-floor critical care unit in the world. Headley Court and the new Army Recovery Capability will continue to offer world-leading support to those rehabilitating after serious injury. We have

doubled the lump-sum payments for the most seriously injured to £570,000, and increased the lifetime-income payments by up to a third.

As a sign of our continued commitment to the military community, we will introduce a Forces Charter to enshrine in law the rights of forces, their families, and Veterans. A Veterans ID card will help Veterans access their improved benefits and will be free to service leavers. We will continue to strengthen mental health provision in partnership with the Combat Stress charity, and roll out our Welfare Pathway to give personnel and their families better support and advice.

### **A strong Britain in a reformed Europe**

We are proud that Britain is once again a leading player in Europe. Our belief is that Britain is stronger in the world when the European Union is strong, and that Britain succeeds when it leads in Europe and sets the agenda for change. Sullen resistance and disengagement achieve nothing.

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Stronger competitiveness must be Europe's economic priority. Europe will only grow and prosper if it is dynamic and knowledge-based, with excellent universities, competitive companies, and thriving start-ups, underpinned by a modern infrastructure of digital communications and low-carbon transport. The EU should strive to improve the regulatory environment, in particular for small and medium sized business. But we reject any attempt to renegotiate or unravel social rights for the British people, and believe that economic strength and social protection go hand-in-hand – a modern EU must enhance competitiveness and growth while guaranteeing security and fair rights at work.

Fundamental reform of the EU budget remains necessary, with further changes to the Common Agricultural Policy on the way to ending export subsidies. Transfers within the EU must target those areas that are least well off. On the Euro, we hold to our promise that there will be no membership of the single currency without the consent of the British people in a referendum.

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We support the enlargement of EU membership to include Croatia, and believe that all Western Balkan states should open negotiations on EU accession by 2014 – one hundred years after the start of the First World War. Turkey's future membership is a key test of Europe's potential to

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become a bridge between religions and regions; there must be continued progress on its application to join the EU. In its foreign policy, Europe should play a key role in conflict resolution and the promotion of security, and work bilaterally to achieve its goals with the leading global powers in each region of the world.

On climate change, the EU has a critical leadership role to play in securing a legally binding UN agreement, reducing its emissions by 30 per cent on 1990 levels in the context of an ambitious global deal. It must also offer stronger leadership on global poverty reduction.

We will strengthen co-operation with our EU partners in fighting crime and international terrorism, and support practical European co-operation on defence, in partnership with NATO. To symbolise its commitment to global peace and justice, and energise its young people, we propose a European Peace Corps.

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The poverty of the Tory vision is summed up by their false choice between an alliance with the United States and one with Europe. In Europe they are not just isolated, but marginalised – in a tiny group of far-right parties that endorses extreme views and is stuck in climate-change denial. Elsewhere in the world their anti-European attitudes are seen as undermining British influence. They are helpless to shape change, or defend our interests.

### Strengthening global security and preventing conflict

We strongly believe in co-operation between nations for a safer world. We will continue to press for stronger international action against terrorism and learn the lessons of recent experience to prevent and defuse conflict and build stability and the rule of law in places that would otherwise shelter terrorist networks. We have shown in Afghanistan and elsewhere that our military, diplomats and development staff can set an international standard for joint working, but we will not put the aid budget under military control. We will spend at least half of our new bilateral aid in fragile and conflict-affected states.

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Having played a leading role in the international agreement to ban cluster bombs, we are leading the campaign for a legally binding global arms trade treaty in 2012.

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We will continue to drive reform of the humanitarian agencies at the UN and work to build an international consensus on ‘responsibility to protect’, while supporting the International Criminal Court in bringing previously untouchable criminals to justice. We will advocate a new international convention to enable the prosecution of perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity.

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There is no more important part of the world for global security than the Middle East. We support the creation of a viable Palestinian state that can live alongside a secure Israel. All the countries of the region have a role to play in delivering the vision of the Arab Peace Initiative – normalised relations between Arab states and Israel in return for a Palestinian state. They also have a shared interest in preventing the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran. This is the gravest nuclear threat to global security since the foundation of the Non- Proliferation Treaty in the 1960s. We support engagement and pressure on the Iranian regime; it is threatening its own people as well as the security of the region and the world.

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In Africa, Labour has made aid, trade, conflict prevention and good governance a priority. We will support the final stages of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan, and maintain the pressure for Zimbabwe to transition back to democracy as quickly as possible.

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We will work with Greece and Turkey for long-term stability in Cyprus; and continue to support bilateral efforts by India and Pakistan to improve relations. The two countries have profound ties to the UK, which we are determined to nurture. We will keep up the pressure for the release of Aung Sang Suu Kyi and a return to democracy in Burma.

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We strongly support reconstruction and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. We believe that both the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka must be held to account for the loss of civilian life, and we will continue to urge the Sri Lankan Government to fulfil its commitment to a full and fair investigation into war crimes committed in the final months of the civil war.

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Human rights and democracy are a central feature of our foreign policy for a simple reason – we believe human rights are universal, and it is the job of strong and mature democracies to support the development of free societies everywhere – while upholding our own legal and moral obligations.

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### **The global poverty emergency: our moral duty, our common interest**

Labour's international leadership on development has helped transform the lives of millions across the world. Yet too many people still live in extreme poverty, die from treatable diseases, or are denied the chance to go to school.

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We will lead an international campaign to get the Millennium Development Goals back on track. We remain committed to spending 0.7 per cent of national income on aid from 2013, and we will enshrine this commitment in law early in the next Parliament. Our aid will target the poorest and most excluded – spent transparently and evaluated independently. We will fight corruption, investing more to track, freeze, and recover assets stolen from developing countries. Further action will be taken to strengthen developing countries' tax systems, reduce tax evasion, improve reporting, and crack down on tax havens. To increase accountability, we will allocate at least five per cent of all funding developing country budgets for the purpose of strengthening the role of Parliaments and civil society.

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Our leadership on debt cancellation has freed 28 countries from the shackles of debt. We will continue to drive this agenda, building on legislation to clampdown on vulture funds.

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Access to health, education, food, water and sanitation are basic human rights. We will spend £8.5 billion over eight years to help more children go to school; maintain our pledge to spend £6 billion on health between 2008 and 2015 and £1 billion through the Global Fund to support the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria; fight for universal access to prevention, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS by 2010; and deliver at least 30 million additional anti-malarial bed-nets over the next three years.

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We will provide £1 billion for water and sanitation by 2013, driving this issue up the international agenda, and over £1 billion on food security and agriculture. We will push for the establishment of a Global Council on Child Hunger. We will help save the lives of six million mothers and babies by 2015 and, because international focus on the needs of women and girls is vital, we will double core funding to the new UN Women's agency. While the Tories would favour private schemes, we will work closely with NGOs and developing countries to eliminate user fees and promote healthcare and education free at the point of access. We will encourage other countries to ratify the ILO conventions on labour standards, as we have done.

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Trade can lift millions out of poverty. We will work with the private sector, trade unions and co-operatives to promote sustainable development, quadruple our funding for fair and ethical trade, and press for a fair World Trade Organisation deal, with no enforced liberalisation for poor countries, and increased duty-free and quota-free access.

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### Reforming global institutions

In today's world, power is shifting, flowing downwards and outwards towards new non-state actors, networked by modern communications. Governments and global institutions must respond to this change – and reform to meet new challenges. They need to be more effective but also more inclusive. To secure global change, we will make the case for:

- The extension of the G8.
- A clearer mandate for the World Bank to focus on the poorest countries and promote low-carbon development; and for the IMF to focus on financial stability, with both becoming more inclusive.
- Radical UN reform, including new membership of the Security Council, budgetary reform, and an overhaul of UN agencies.
- Continuing reform of NATO and stronger international co-operation to tackle security challenges, while building the capacity of regional security organisations including the African Union.
- The enduring role of the Commonwealth – a unique organisation for fostering understanding and trust, spanning a quarter of the world's population.

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International commitments and a voice for Britain in global affairs are not an optional extra for Labour. They are central to our vision of a better Britain. We have strengthened our international alliances and will continue to do so in ways that speak to our deepest values as a nation.

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**Your world.**

Britain must work together with our partners abroad if we are to have the best hope of meeting the challenges the world faces. We believe in freedom, justice, prosperity and human rights for all and will do all we can to work towards a world where these hopes become reality. Above all, climate change is the greatest challenge facing this generation.

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**Securing Britain’s future with global action**

Liberal Democrats believe that Britain must work together with its partners abroad if we are to have the best hope of meeting the challenges the world faces. We believe in freedom, justice, prosperity and human rights for all and will do all we can to work towards a world where these hopes become reality.

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Never has there been such a need for global action. There are only a few years to take action to stop runaway climate change. The global recession proved the need for better international regulation of the financial markets. New security threats are emerging, for which Britain’s armed forces are not yet fully equipped, whilst terrorists and organised criminals exploit international networks. The challenge of tackling global poverty remains, with the Millennium Development Goals still far from being achieved. And the battle for human rights remains to be fought in many countries.

Liberal Democrats will work through the European Union to deliver a global deal on climate change. We will transform the armed forces, meeting the nation’s obligations under the military covenant, and conducting a full defence review to ensure they are equipped for modern threats. We will push for better global financial regulation. We will strive for global nuclear disarmament, showing leadership by committing not to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system on a like-for-like basis. We will meet the UK’s obligations to the developing world by committing to spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on aid. And we will put Britain at the heart of Europe, to ensure we use our influence to achieve prosperity, security and opportunity for Britain.

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### tackling climate change

Climate change is the greatest challenge facing this generation. Liberal Democrats are unwavering in our commitment: runaway climate change must be stopped, and politicians must follow the science in order to make that happen.

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We will set a target for a zero-carbon Britain that doesn't contribute at all to global warming – making the British economy carbon-neutral overall by 2050, reducing carbon emissions in the UK by over 40 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 as a step on the way.

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Our response to climate change will give the British people more secure energy supplies, reduce air pollution and related health costs – and create thousands of new jobs.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Begin a ten-year programme of home insulation, offering a home energy improvement package of up to £10,000 per home, paid for by the savings from lower energy bills, and make sure every new home is fully energy-efficient by improving building regulations.
- Set a target for 40 per cent of UK electricity to come from clean, non-carbon-emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100 per cent by 2050, underpinned by guaranteed price support; and ensure that at least three-quarters of this new renewable energy comes from marine and offshore sources.
- Set out a clear renewables routemap to 2050, covering grid access and investment in electricity networks, and develop new incentives to promote renewable heat.
- Transform the electricity networks into a dynamic electricity grid that can better connect and integrate new, clean energy technologies particularly through the better use of sub-sea connections, leading to the development of a European Supergrid.
- Invest up to £400 million in refurbishing shipyards in the North of England and Scotland so that they can manufacture offshore wind turbines and other marine renewable energy equipment.
- Launch an 'Eco Cash-Back' scheme, for one year only, which will give you £400 if you install double glazing, replace an old boiler, or install micro-generation. If you choose

micro-generation, you will be able to sell the energy back to the National Grid at a profit, with a more attractive feed-in tariff than under current government plans.

- Set aside extra money for schools to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. They will pay back the loan over time from energy savings, creating a rolling fund to help insulate all public buildings.
- Invest £140 million in a bus scrappage scheme that helps bus companies to replace old polluting buses with new low-carbon ones and creates jobs.
- Block any new coal-fired power stations – the most polluting form of power generation – unless they are accompanied by the highest level of carbon capture and storage facilities.
- Reject a new generation of nuclear power stations; based on the evidence nuclear is a far more expensive way of reducing carbon emissions than promoting energy conservation and renewable energy.
- Improve energy efficiency in the commercial and public sectors, by strengthening the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme and requiring companies and government departments to report on their energy use and set targets for reducing it. We will set a 30 per cent energy efficiency improvement target for 2020, and will commit the government to the goals of the 10:10 campaign as a first step.

### leading the fight against climate change

Liberal Democrats are committed to securing a legally binding global agreement on limiting the increase in global temperatures to below 1.7 degrees Celsius. We believe that such an agreement must be based on reducing emissions overall, while equalising emissions between the developed and developing worlds – the principle of contraction and convergence. Strong and credible EU ambition, with effective UK leadership, are essential for achieving a global agreement, so that total greenhouse gas emissions peak no later than 2015. Liberal Democrats will work within Europe and internationally to give renewed urgency to global efforts to combat climate change.

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We will press the EU to:

- Promote the transition to a low-carbon economy in Europe, by moving unilaterally and immediately to an EU emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2020, adopting new

long-term targets and policies for clean energy and energy efficiency; and expand investment in energy technology innovation, within Europe and internationally.

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- Boost investment in clean energy by reforming the EU emissions trading scheme – bringing in a tighter cap on emissions, auctioning as many allowances as possible, and encouraging other European countries to increase the use of reserve prices in allowance auctions.
- Engage with major emitters and deepen diplomatic co-operation between the EU and emerging economies and developing countries, provide enhanced financial support for low-carbon solutions and lead international efforts to promote the transfer of technologies that will help to tackle climate change.
- Work for the adoption of ‘quick win’ measures that could be initiated within the next few years such as reducing the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- At the UN level, we will support the provision of UN Adaptation Funds for developing countries, financed from international emissions markets, such as a cap-and-trade system for international emissions from aviation and shipping.

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### protecting the global environment

Humans are living beyond the ability of the planet to support life; more than 60 per cent of the basic ecosystems that support life on Earth are being degraded or used unsustainably. Co-ordinated international action and effective global institutions are necessary to help create a sustainable future and improve the quality of life of all the world’s citizens.

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Liberal Democrats will:

- Work through the EU to make sure that the environment is fully integrated into the objectives of international institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation.
- Work to increase the resourcing of the UN Environment Programme and improve the enforcement of international environmental treaties.
- Protect the world’s forests, not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to preserve this crucial reservoir of biodiversity. We will argue for an international target of zero net deforestation by 2020; support a new system of payments to developing countries to enable

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them to reduce deforestation; and adopt at EU – or, if necessary, at UK – level a new law making it illegal to import or possess timber produced illegally in foreign countries.

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- Work with other countries to develop an international labelling system for the environmental impact of products, helping consumers choose those with the least impact on resource use and pollution.

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### meeting Britain's obligations to the developing world

Liberal Democrats are committed to working towards a world free from poverty, inequality and injustice and meeting the Millennium Development Goals is a vital first step. But beyond this we will also ensure that action is taken to allow developing nations to grow and to prevent them suffering unfairly the effects of climate change inflicted by developed countries.

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Liberal Democrats will:

- Increase the UK's aid budget to reach the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2013 and enshrine that target in law. We will hold the G8 to its Gleneagles pledges on aid, including on the 0.7 per cent target.
- Work with other countries to establish new sources of development financing, including bringing forward urgent proposals for a financial transaction tax and a cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions from aviation and shipping.
- Support reform of the global financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.
- Ban banks from facilitating the transfer of funds obtained by corruption. We will crack down on tax havens which allow individuals and corporations to avoid paying taxes to developing countries.
- Ensure that the developing world is prepared to deal with the consequences of a changing climate. We will ensure that adaptation and mitigation measures are financed by industrialised nations on top of existing aid commitments.
- Prioritise health and education programmes which aim to promote gender equality, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and restrict the spread of major diseases like HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. We will focus effort on supplying basic needs like clean water.
- Support a global fund for social protection to help developing countries build viable welfare systems.

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- Push for a renewed international effort on debt and support 100 per cent cancellation of the unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries. We will also take measures against 'vulture funds' and lobby for similar action at international level.

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### Equipping Britain's armed forces for the 21st century

Modern armed forces face a series of complex challenges. Alongside fighting conventional wars, they seek to protect us from the threats of terrorism, maintain the peace, undertake conflict prevention and help facilitate development in poorer nations.

The world has changed enormously since the end of the Cold War. New threats are emerging and yet Britain's armed forces remain largely equipped to fight the old ones. The Iraq War, and allegations over British complicity in torture and in secret 'rendition' flights of terrorist suspects, highlight the dangers of a subservient relationship with the United States that neglects Britain's core values and interests.

The threats of tomorrow are likely to be driven by failed states, mass migration, climate change and regional instability. So we will ensure that taxpayers' money is spent more effectively on equipping the forces for the tasks of the future, not old Cold War threats. We will:

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- Hold an immediate Strategic Security and Defence Review (SSDR) to ensure that Britain deploys its resources to face the most serious threats to its citizens' security and well-being, including non-military challenges such as climate change.
- With strong Treasury involvement, review all major defence procurement projects through the SSDR to ensure money is being spent effectively. We will not purchase tranche 3B of the Eurofighter.
- Rule out the like-for-like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. At a cost of £100 billion over a lifetime it is unaffordable, and Britain's security would be better served by alternatives. We support multilateral nuclear disarmament and will ensure that the UK plays a proactive role in the arms reduction talks starting later this year.
- Reinvigorate Franco-British and wider European defence co-operation to ensure procurement costs are kept low.

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### A fair deal for our service personnel

The brave men and women of Britain's armed forces are the most precious military asset we have. They must be treated fairly, with pay and conditions that reflect their outstanding commitment to this country, and properly valued and supported after they leave the services.

Liberal Democrats will put the forces' welfare first. We will:

- Give a pay rise to the lower ranks so that their pay is brought into line with the starting salary of their emergency services counterparts.
- Double the rate of modernisation of forces' family homes to ensure they are fit for heroes.
- While it is necessary to find resources to support the troops properly, at the same time fairness requires that we make savings where possible within the defence budget as a whole. We will reduce the number of civilian staff in the Ministry of Defence and reduce numbers of top brass officers.

### Putting Britain at the heart of Europe

Liberal Democrats believe that European co-operation is the best way for Britain to be strong, safe and influential in the future. We will ensure that Britain maximises its influence through a strong and positive commitment.

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But just because Europe is essential, that doesn't mean the European Union is perfect. We will continue to campaign for improved accountability, efficiency and effectiveness. Working together, the member states of the EU have a better chance of managing the impacts of globalisation, such as cross-border crime and environmental pollution.

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Liberal Democrats will:

- Work with Britain's European neighbours to create thousands of new jobs by breaking down trade barriers and boosting support for green jobs.
- Work through the European Union for stricter international regulation of financial services and banking.

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- Keep Britain part of international crime-fighting measures such as the European Arrest Warrant, European Police Office (Europol), Eurojust, and the European Criminal Records Information System, while ensuring high standards of justice.
- Keep the pressure on for reform of agricultural subsidies so that farmers, consumers and taxpayers get a fair deal, and the environment is protected.
- Fight to stop MEPs having to travel to the Strasbourg Parliament every month, wasting €200 million a year.
- Campaign for continuing reform of the EU budget so that money is spent only on the things the EU really needs to do.
- The European Union has evolved significantly since the last public vote on membership over thirty years ago. Liberal Democrats therefore remain committed to an in/out referendum the next time a British government signs up for fundamental change in the relationship between the UK and the EU.
- We believe that it is in Britain's long-term interest to be part of the euro. But Britain should only join when the economic conditions are right, and in the present economic situation, they are not. Britain should join the euro only if that decision were supported by the people of Britain in a referendum.

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### standing up for liberal values around the world

Liberal Democrats will put British values of fairness and the rule of law back at the heart of our foreign policy. British people used to be proud of what our country stood for. But Britain's reputation has been damaged by unscrupulous arms deals with dictators, allegations of involvement in torture, and of course the disastrous and illegal invasion of Iraq. We will also give greater support to conflict prevention – which saves money and saves lives.

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We will:

- Make the EU use its collective weight effectively in other areas of foreign policy. Britain can have a far stronger voice on relations with Russia, China, Iran and the Middle East peace process when it joins with the rest of Europe.
- Be critical supporters of the Afghanistan mission. The military surge must be accompanied by a strategy to ensure a more legitimate government, tackle corruption and win over

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moderate elements in the insurgency. We will continue to demand a strategy that involves other players in the region. We believe that a successful strategy will stabilise Afghanistan enough to allow British troops to come home during the next Parliament.

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- Support the establishment of an International Arms Trade Treaty to limit the sale of arms to dangerous regimes and work for a full international ban on cluster munitions. We will ensure that British arms are not sold to states that would use them for internal repression. We will require arms brokers to register under a code of conduct and revoke the licences of those who break the code.
- Support action by the international community to stop Iran obtaining nuclear weapons. We would follow a diplomatic route of active engagement, and are ready to back targeted sanctions, but we oppose military action against Iran and believe those calling for such action undermine the growing reform movement in Iran.
- Hold a full judicial inquiry into allegations of British complicity in torture and state kidnapping as part of a process to restore Britain's reputation for decency and fairness.
- Remain committed to the search for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A sustainable solution can be reached in the context of two separate Israeli and Palestinian states, mutually recognised and internationally accepted within borders which are secure and based on the situation before the 1967 conflict. We condemn disproportionate force used by all sides. We believe Britain and the EU must put pressure on Israel and Egypt to end the blockade of Gaza.

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### Real change in our relationship with the European Union

#### Our commitment to you:

For too long, your voice has been ignored on Europe. We will:

- give you a say over whether we should stay in or leave the EU, with an in-out referendum by the end of 2017
- commit to keeping the pound and staying out of the Eurozone
- reform the workings of the EU, which is too big, too bossy and too bureaucratic
- reclaim power from Brussels on your behalf and safeguard British interests in the Single Market
- back businesses to create jobs in Britain by completing ambitious trade deals and reducing red tape.

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The EU needs to change. And it is time for the British people – not politicians – to have their say. Only the Conservative Party will deliver real change and real choice on Europe, with an in-out referendum by the end of 2017.

Labour failed to give you a choice on the EU. They handed over major new powers to Brussels without your consent, and gave away £7 billion of the British rebate. We have taken action in Europe to promote your economic security. We cut the EU budget for the first time ever, saving British taxpayers £815 billion. We took Britain out of Eurozone bailouts, including for Greece – the first ever return of powers from Brussels. Our Prime Minister vetoed a new EU treaty that would have damaged Britain’s interests. And we have pursued a bold, positive, pro-business agenda, exempting smallest businesses from red tape, promoting free trade, and pushing to extend the Single Market to new sectors, like digital.

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But there is much more to do. The EU is too bureaucratic and too undemocratic. It interferes too much in our daily lives, and the scale of migration triggered by new members joining in recent years has had a real impact on local communities. We are clear about what we want from Europe.

We say: yes to the Single Market. Yes to turbo-charging free trade. Yes to working together where we are stronger together than alone. Yes to a family of nation states, all part of a European Union – but whose interests, crucially, are guaranteed whether inside the Euro or out. No to ‘ever closer union.’ No to a constant flow of power to Brussels. No to unnecessary interference. And no, of course, to the Euro, to participation in Eurozone bail-outs or notions like a European Army.

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It will be a fundamental principle of a future Conservative Government that membership of the European Union depends on the consent of the British people – and in recent years that consent has worn wafer-thin. That’s why, after the election, we will negotiate a new settlement for Britain in Europe, and then ask the British people whether they want to stay in the EU on this reformed basis or leave. David Cameron has committed that he will only lead a government that offers an in-out referendum. We will hold that in-out referendum before the end of 2017 and respect the outcome.

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So the choice at this election is clear: Labour and the Liberal Democrats won’t give you a say over the EU. UKIP can’t give you a say. Only the Conservative Party will deliver real change in Europe – and only the Conservatives can and will deliver an in-out referendum.

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### **Our plan of action:**

**We will let you decide whether to stay in or leave the EU**

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We will legislate in the first session of the next Parliament for an in-out referendum to be held on Britain’s membership of the EU before the end of 2017. We will negotiate a new settlement for Britain in the EU. And then we will ask the British people whether they want to stay in on this basis, or leave. We will honour the result of the referendum, whatever the outcome.

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### **We will protect Britain's economy**

We will protect our economy from any further integration of the Eurozone. The integration of the Eurozone has raised acute questions for non-Eurozone countries like the United Kingdom. We benefit from the Single Market and do not want to stand in the way of the Eurozone resolving its difficulties. Indeed, given the trade between Britain and the Eurozone countries we want to see

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these economies returning to growth. But we will not let the integration of the Eurozone jeopardise the integrity of the Single Market or in any way disadvantage the UK.

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### **We will reclaim powers from Brussels**

We want to see powers flowing away from Brussels, not to it. We have already taken action to return around 100 powers, but we want to go further. We want national parliaments to be able to work together to block unwanted European legislation. And we want an end to our commitment to an 'ever closer union,' as enshrined in the Treaty to which every EU country has to sign up. Furthermore, we will continue to ensure that defence policy remains firmly under British national control, maintaining NATO and the transatlantic relationship as the cornerstones of our defence and security policy.

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### **We will scrap the Human Rights Act**

We will scrap Labour's Human Rights Act and introduce a British Bill of Rights which will restore common sense to the application of human rights in the UK. The Bill will remain faithful to the basic principles of human rights, which we signed up to in the original European Convention on Human Rights. It will protect basic rights, like the right to a fair trial, and the right to life, which are an essential part of a modern democratic society. But it will reverse the mission creep that has meant human rights law being used for more and more purposes, and often with little regard for the rights of wider society. Among other things the Bill will stop terrorists and other serious foreign criminals who pose a threat to our society from using spurious human rights arguments to prevent deportation.

### **We will take action in Europe to make you better off**

We want an EU that helps Britain move ahead, not one that holds us back. We have already succeeded in exempting our smallest businesses from new EU regulations, and kicked-off negotiations for a massive EU trade deal with the USA, which could be worth billions of pounds to the UK economy. We will build on this. We want to preserve the integrity of the Single Market, by insisting on protections for those countries that have kept their own currencies. We want to expand the Single Market, breaking down the remaining barriers to trade and ensuring that new sectors are opened up to British firms. We want to ensure that new rules target unscrupulous

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behaviour in the financial services industry, while safeguarding Britain as a global centre of excellence in finance. So we will resist EU attempts to restrict legitimate financial services activities. We will press for lower EU spending, further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and Structural Funds, and for EU money to be focused on promoting jobs and growth.

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## A Britain standing tall in the world

### Our commitment to you:

Everything we do around the world will be driven by a determination to protect your security and help you prosper. We will:

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- ensure Britain is a major player on the world stage, using diplomacy to protect your interests, uphold British values and tackle threats to your security and prosperity
- help generate new trade, investment and job opportunities, to benefit you and your family
- maintain our world class Armed Forces so they continue to guarantee your security
- uphold our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on international development.

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Economic security and national security are two sides of the same coin. Without one, you cannot have the other. Our prosperity depends upon Britain remaining an active, outward-looking nation, one that is engaged with the world, not looking in on itself. We will maintain Britain's strong global role and our capacity to project British power and values around the world.

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Labour's Great Recession weakened Britain on the world stage. They left a £38 billion black hole in the defence budget, went 12 years without conducting a Strategic Defence Review, and, at times, failed to provide our Armed Forces with the equipment they needed in Afghanistan. They shut down over 30 British diplomatic missions, failed to plan properly for Iraq's reconstruction, ignored trade and investment opportunities overseas, and neglected vital relationships.

We have strengthened Britain's influence in the world. The National Security Council that we established ensures proper, strategic decision-making at the top of government. We have boosted exports to emerging markets, opened new diplomatic posts in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and led the world in promoting women's rights and tackling sexual violence in conflict. We have balanced the defence budget and set out a clear strategy to defend our nation for the long term.

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We and our allies face major challenges: Islamist extremism, an aggressive Russia, economic uncertainty in the Eurozone, nuclear proliferation and infectious diseases. A Conservative Government will tackle these challenges. We will use our membership of NATO, the EU, the Commonwealth, our UN Security Council seat, our Special Relationship with the USA, our intelligence agencies, vital institutions like the BBC World Service and British Council, and the strong personal links between our diaspora communities and other countries, to achieve the best for Britain.

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We will back this up with UK military power and international aid. Our long-term economic plan will ensure we have the economic strength to maintain our world-class Armed Forces, to uphold our national security and project power globally. Aid helps prevent failed states from becoming havens for terrorists. It builds long-term markets for our businesses, by promoting global prosperity, and reduces migration pressures. So we will maintain our commitment to tackling conflict, poverty and disease around the world.

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## A stronger voice for our nation on the world stage

### Our plan of action:

#### We will keep you secure

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We will tackle global terrorism and the poisonous ideology of Islamist extremism while taking a patient, long-term approach to preventing conflict and state failure. We will work with our partners to address threats to UK security, including the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, pandemic diseases, the illegal drugs trade, piracy and organised crime. We will:

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- work for peace, stability and an inclusive settlement in Syria and Iraq; and pursue a comprehensive political and military strategy to defeat ISIL
- uphold the sovereignty, integrity and capacity of Ukraine, and continue to reject Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea

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- stand shoulder to shoulder with our NATO allies, reassuring all its members – especially those closest to Russia – of their security, and continue to support the Euro-Atlantic path for Western Balkan nations
- ensure that the significant achievements of our Armed Forces in Afghanistan are maintained; and support the Government of Afghanistan in ensuring that the country remains stable and never again becomes a haven for international terrorists
- support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, robustly defending the right of Israel to protect its security, while continuing to condemn illegal settlement building, which undermines the prospects for peace
- protect global security by helping to lead international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon; and work to ensure that North Korea ends its development of nuclear weapons

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### We will help make you better off

Over the last five years, we have used foreign policy to boost our prosperity. UK exports to China have more than doubled since 2009. We will do more, using the new embassies and diplomatic posts we have opened to connect Britain to the fastest-growing economies in the world. We will push for freer global trade, concluding major trade deals with the US, India and Japan and reinvigorating the World Trade Organisation. As part of our drive to attract more investment into the UK and increase British exports, we will:

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- build on our strong relationship with India, push for an ambitious EU-India trade deal and support India's bid for permanent representation on the UN Security Council strengthen our economic links with China, doubling support for British firms selling goods there and championing an EU-China trade deal

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### We will stand up for British values

Our long-term security and prosperity depend on a stable international system that upholds our values. Over the last five years, we have stood up for what we believe in: intervening to stop a massacre in Libya, leading the world in tackling sexual violence in conflict, and helping women and children who have fled violence in Syria. We will continue this leadership. We will stand up for the freedom of people of all religions –and non-religious people – to practise their beliefs in

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peace and safety, for example by supporting persecuted Christians in the Middle East. We will strengthen the Commonwealth's focus on promoting democratic values and development. We will drive forward the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative. We will support global processes on arms control. And we will continue to support universal human rights. We will:

- uphold our Special Relationship with the USA and further strengthen our ties with our close Commonwealth allies, Australia, Canada and New Zealand
- uphold the democratic rights of the people of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands to remain British, for as long as that is their wish, and protect our Overseas Territories
- stand up for the rule of law and human rights in Zimbabwe
- support a democratic transition in Burma
- promote reconciliation and human rights in Sri Lanka, including through supporting the UN investigation into war crimes, which the Prime Minister was instrumental in securing following his historic visit to Jaffna
- actively support Cypriots to find a peaceful and lasting settlement to reunite their island

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## Keeping Britain safe

### Our plan of action:

#### We will protect our nation

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We will continue to keep our Armed Forces strong so they can continue to keep you safe. We will maintain the size of the regular armed services and not reduce the army to below 82,000. We will retain the Trident continuous at sea nuclear deterrent to provide the ultimate guarantee of our safety and build the new fleet of four Successor Ballistic Missile Submarines – securing thousands of highly-skilled engineering jobs in the UK. We will work closely with our allies to continue to strengthen NATO – supporting its new multi-national rapid response force. We will maintain our global presence, strengthening our defence partnerships in the Gulf and Asia. Later this year, we will hold a National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review to plan for the future.

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#### We will maintain a balanced defence budget and give our Armed Forces the equipment they need

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We can only have strong, well-funded Armed Forces by continuing to build a stronger economy. We have the second largest defence budget in NATO and the largest in the EU. We are meeting NATO's two targets: that each country should spend two per cent of its gross national income on defence, and of that spending 20 per cent should go on major equipment. We have made commitments for the equipment plan to be funded at one per cent above inflation for the next Parliament. We plan to invest at least £160 billion in new military equipment over the next decade: as well as our six new Type 45 destroyers, we are building a class of seven Astute submarines and buying the Joint Strike Fighter, Scout armoured vehicles, Type 26 frigates and new Apache attack helicopters. We will bring both of our new Aircraft Carriers – HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, the largest vessels the Royal Navy has ever possessed – into service, so we have one available for use at all times. We will continue to seek value for money in defence procurement, recognising the important contribution that the UK defence industry makes to our prosperity.

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#### **We will maintain strong, modern Armed Forces**

Modern, flexible Armed Forces need strong reserve capacity, alongside strong regular forces. We have invested significantly in our reserves, and we will deliver on our commitment to expand them to 35,000. We will continue to invest in our cyber defence capabilities. We will also provide more opportunities for talented people from all communities and walks of life to serve their country. We will ensure our Armed Forces overseas are not subject to persistent human rights claims that undermine their ability to do their job.

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#### **We will continue to honour the Armed Forces Covenant**

We have honoured our commitment to enshrine the Armed Forces Covenant in law and done much to support our servicemen and women. We have delivered better accommodation for service families, helped service personnel buy their own home, and ensured that children of members of the Armed Forces benefit from the Pupil Premium. We have delivered proper mental health support and priority access to medical treatments for veterans. To ensure that those who serve can enjoy greater economic security, we have boosted allowances and tax reliefs. We have protected pensions for our servicemen and women. We have ensured that injured service personnel have access to the latest prosthetics and world-class rehabilitation facilities. And we have used £450

million of LIBOR fines from banks to support the Armed Forces community. The money has been used to support a wide range of charities and good causes, from providing better play facilities for the children of service families, to helping rehabilitation through sport for injured veterans. We pressed for the introduction of the Arctic Star medal – for veterans of the Arctic Convoys– and the Bomber Command Clasp, to ensure proper recognition for those who risked their lives to keep us free. We will build on this proud record, implementing Lord Ashcroft’s recommendations on the way the nation fulfils its obligations to veterans. We will work to address hearing loss among veterans. And we will continue to support the unsung heroes of the Armed Forces community: the partners and families of those who serve.

### **Tackling global challenges to make you safer and more prosperous**

#### **Our plan of action:**

##### **We will continue to honour our commitments**

Tackling global poverty is both the right thing to do and in Britain’s interests. We have delivered on our promises to meet the UN target of spending 07 per cent of national income as aid and to enshrine this in law. We will continue to meet the 07 per cent target, maintain an independent Department for International Development and keep aid untied. Our aid budget meets the OECD aid rules, and we will actively engage in international discussions to ensure that these rules fully reflect the importance of peace, stability and effective institutions for reducing poverty. We will insist that every government and organisation we fund meets global transparency standards.

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##### **We will save lives**

By 2020, we will save 14 million children’s lives, by immunising 76 million children against killer diseases. We will help at least 11 million children in the poorest countries gain a decent education, improve nutrition for at least 50 million people, who would otherwise go hungry; and help at least 60 million people get access to clean water and sanitation, to stop terrible diseases. We will continue to lead the response to humanitarian emergencies, and establish a means to respond rapidly to crises. Our leading role in dealing with the recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa is a good example of how our aid programme helps protect Britain from serious threats, while also helping countries tackle major emergencies which put their stability at risk. We will lead a major new global programme to accelerate the development of vaccines and drugs to eliminate the

world's deadliest infectious diseases, while investing to save lives from malaria and working to end preventable child and maternal deaths. We will expand payment by results and ensure all money to governments is clearly earmarked for specific purposes.

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### **We will tackle the causes of poverty and promote gender equality**

We will push for new global goals to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and promote human development, gender equality and good governance. We will work to prevent climate change and assist the poorest in adapting to it. As the route out of poverty is about much more than just aid, we will boost growth and jobs, making it easier for people to start up businesses and trade freely with each other. We will continue to promote the golden thread of democracy, the rule of law, property rights, a free media and open, accountable institutions. We will promote girls' education, encourage equal access to property rights and work to achieve access to family planning for everyone who wants it. We will continue to lead efforts to tackle violence against women and girls, end FGM and combat early and forced marriage, both at home and abroad

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### **We will help you fight poverty**

Our International Citizen Service has given thousands of young Brits the opportunity to volunteer abroad. We will triple it in size. We will also double our successful Aid Match scheme, which matches donations to charity from the aid budget. We will boost partnerships between UK institutions and their counterparts in the developing world, and help people in the UK give or lend money directly to individuals and entrepreneurs around the world.

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Labour 2015: “Britain Can Be Better”

Chapter: We will stand up for Britain’s interests in Europe and the world

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We live in turbulent times. The rise of ISIL, an aggressive Russia threatening its neighbours in eastern Europe, and continuing economic uncertainty in the Eurozone, are each a challenge to our national security. Labour is an internationalist party and believes Britain must engage with the global challenges we face, but not try and solve them on our own. We believe the Conservatives are damaging the interests of our country by turning their backs on Europe, and isolating us abroad. We will strengthen our national security, stand up for human rights, and work with other countries to tackle terrorism, climate change, and eliminate extreme poverty globally.

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Britain has a unique influence in the world. We are the only country that is a member of the UN Security Council, NATO, the G7, the G20, the Commonwealth and the EU.

With Labour, Britain’s response to threats to our security will be based on enduring principles. We will protect our national interests, and strengthen our long-standing international alliances, in particular, our membership of NATO and the European Union. We will advance our international engagement, rather than retreating into isolation. We will maintain the best Armed Forces in the world, capable of responding to changing threats in an unpredictable security landscape. And we will support human rights, always putting individual freedom and democracy at the heart of our foreign policy.

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One of our first acts in government will be to conduct a wide-ranging review of Britain’s place in the world and how we can best uphold our values and the national interest.

Global challenges

We will take a multilateral approach to global challenges. We will continue to uphold our key alliances. These include the United States, our allies in Africa and Latin America, and our partners from across the Commonwealth. They also include the European Union. The crisis in Ukraine over the past year has demonstrated the importance of NATO and the EU standing up to external threats

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in Europe's eastern, and southern neighbourhoods. Labour will continue to advocate an EU which looks outward to promote stability, peace and prosperity on its borders.

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Most immediately we will work with our allies to counter and confront terrorism. ISIL's barbarism and expansionist ideology, alongside terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and Al-Shabaab, represent a particular threat to global security. Following a request from the Iraqi Prime Minister, it was right that the UK joined other nations in air strikes against ISIL targets in Iraq. But military action alone will not defeat ISIL. A long-term multinational political strategy, with regional actors playing a central role, is essential for tackling the rise of extremism across the region.

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A Labour Government will always do what is necessary to defend our country. Beyond self-defence, Labour has been clear about the need to learn the lessons of previous interventions, especially the 2003 invasion of Iraq. We will continue the approach we have taken in this Parliament. A Labour Government would not propose the use of military force without judging whether reasonable diplomatic efforts have been exhausted, the action is proportionate and in partnership with allies, whether there is a clear legal basis, and if there is a clear plan, not just for winning the war but also for building a lasting peace.

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Peace and security in the Middle East are one of Labour's most important foreign policy objectives. We remain committed to a comprehensive two-state solution – a secure Israel alongside a viable and independent state of Palestine. There can be no military solution to this conflict and all sides must avoid taking action that would make peace harder to achieve. Labour will continue to press for an immediate return to meaningful negotiations leading to a diplomatic resolution.

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Labour will also continue to honour the UK's commitment to support Afghanistan as it seeks to secure an inclusive and durable political settlement. In December 2014, the NATO-led ISAF mission in Afghanistan ended. We can never repay the debt owed to the brave servicemen and women who have sacrificed and risked their lives in Afghanistan to protect our national security.

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As power and wealth continues to shift from West to East, our relationship with Asia will be fundamental to our long-term prosperity. Labour will set up an Asia Step-Change Taskforce to

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ensure a more strategic and effective dialogue with regional partners, including China, both in the commercial realm, and in other areas, from cultural exchange to human rights.

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This commitment to universal human rights will be at the heart of our foreign policy across the world. We will continue to promote women's rights. We will join with those campaigning to attain gender equality, the eradication of poverty and inclusive economic growth. We will appoint a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom, and establish a multi-faith advisory council on religious freedom within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. And we will appoint an International LGBT Rights Envoy to promote respect for the human rights of LGBT people, and work towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality worldwide.

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## Europe

Labour believes that our membership of the European Union is central to our prosperity and security. It is why we will work to change the EU, so that it operates in the best interests of our country. And it is why we will re-engage with our European allies to protect our national interest after five years of Britain being side-lined in Europe and isolated abroad.

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The economic case for membership of the EU is overwhelming. Over 3 million jobs in the UK are linked to trade with the European Union, and almost half of our trade and foreign investment comes from the EU. Competing in the single market, with the best companies in the world, drives competitiveness and innovation for firms in all parts of our economy. And it helps boost the living standards of people across Britain, encouraging the inflow of capital and investment.

Our reforms will help deliver a Europe focused on jobs and growth, not simply more austerity and rising unemployment. Labour will focus on the completion of the single market and tougher budget discipline, including on those items where spending at the EU level can save money at the national level. That means driving reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and a Commission-led zero-based review of spending on EU agencies to reduce waste and inefficiency. We will not join the Euro, and we will ensure EU rules protect the interests of non-Euro members.

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A Labour Government helped to introduce sensible measures at EU level to protect the rights of British workers, and we remain committed to fighting to protect these measures.

People coming to Britain from the EU to look for work are expected to contribute to our economy, and to our society. So we will secure reforms to immigration and social security rules, as well as pushing for stronger transitional controls, which will enable member states to manage the flow of workers for longer when new countries join.

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We will also continue to open up EU decision-making, and implement institutional reforms to help build levels of trust among European citizens. We will work to strengthen the influence national parliaments over European legislation, by arguing for a ‘red-card mechanism’ for member states, providing greater parliamentary scrutiny.

Labour’s priority in government will be protecting the NHS and tackling the cost-of-living crisis. It is not to take Britain out of Europe. However, Labour will legislate for a lock that guarantees that there can be no transfer of powers from Britain to the European Union without the consent of the British public through an in/out referendum.

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### **Defence and our Armed Forces**

The primary duty of any government is the defence of the nation and its interests. That is why Labour is committed to ensuring the UK has responsive, high-tech Armed Forces, with the capability to respond to emerging, interconnected threats, in an unpredictable security landscape. We will conduct a Strategic Defence and Security Review in the first year of government, with an inclusive national debate on the security and defence challenges facing the country. It will be fiscally responsible and strategically driven, focusing on the obstacles that impede our Armed Forces from effective response to threats.

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At the heart of our defence policy are the service men and women, both regulars and reservists, who risk their lives for their country. Labour will strengthen the covenant between our nation and our Armed Forces, veterans and their families. We will create a Veterans’ Register to make certain our veterans receive proper support on leaving service.

We will continue to roll out Labour’s Veterans’ Interview Programme, in which companies voluntarily guarantee an interview for job-seeking ex-forces personnel. We will introduce legislation to make discrimination against members of our Armed Forces illegal, and we will enshrine the Military Covenant in the NHS Constitution.

The UK defence and security industry is a key contributor to our economy, with a turnover of £22 billion a year. We will work to secure defence jobs across the UK, protect the supply chain and support industry to grow Britain’s defence exports. In partnership with industry, we will put accountability, value for money, interoperability and sustainability at the centre of defence procurement.

Britain needs to be prepared to counter the threat of cyber-attacks. We have already called on the Government to require every company working with the Ministry of Defence, regardless of its size or the scale of its work, to sign up to a cyber-security charter. This would reduce the risk of hackers using small suppliers to break into the systems of major defence companies or the department itself. We will consult on creating a statutory requirement for all private companies, to report serious cyber-attacks threatening our national infrastructure.

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Labour remains committed to a minimum, credible, independent nuclear capability, delivered through a Continuous At-Sea Deterrent. We will actively work to increase momentum on global multilateral disarmament efforts and negotiations, and look at further reductions in global stockpiles and the numbers of weapons.

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### Climate change

We will put climate change at the heart of our foreign policy. As the terrible impact of the floods in Britain showed last year, climate change is now an issue of national, as well as global security. From record droughts in California, to devastating typhoons in the Philippines, the world is already seeing the effects we once thought only future generations would experience.

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made clear that if the world is going to hold warming below two degrees (the internationally- agreed goal), global emissions need to peak in



around 2020, and then decline rapidly to reach net zero emissions by the second half of this century. The weaker the action now, the more rapid and costly the reductions will need to be later.

The effects of climate change hit the poor, the hardest. If we do not tackle climate change, millions of people will fall into poverty. We will expand the role of the Department of International Development to mitigate the risks of a changing climate, and support sustainable livelihoods for the world's poorest people.

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We want an ambitious agreement on climate change at the UNFCCC conference in Paris, in December. We will make the case for ambitious emissions targets for all countries, strengthened every five years on the basis of a scientific assessment of the progress towards the below two degree goal. And we will push for a goal of net zero global emissions in the second half of this century, for transparent and universal rules for measuring, verifying and reporting emissions, and for an equitable deal in which richer countries provide support to poorer nations in combatting climate change.

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### International development

We are proud that Labour MPs passed the historic law that commits Britain to spend 0.7 per cent of our gross national income on international development. Labour will use that commitment from the British public to transform the lives of the world's poorest people, whilst ensuring value for taxpayers' money. We will work in fragile and conflict-affected states to improve the lives of those affected by violence, prioritising the protection and education of women and children. We will rebalance the budget to focus funding on the world's poorest countries.

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While progress has been made towards the Millennium Development Goals, it is unacceptable that over a billion people still live on less than \$1.25 a day. We will work with other countries at this year's Sustainable Development Goals Summit to unite the world to eradicate extreme poverty, tackle growing economic inequality, and place human rights at the heart of development. We will establish a Centre for Universal Health Coverage to provide the support, encouragement, and global partnerships needed to help countries provide free healthcare. We will lead efforts to reshape the UN humanitarian system to better equip it to save lives.

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The private sector is essential to long-term development, and is often a positive force for change. We will extend the sharing of tax information to developing countries, increase DFID's help to governments to collect more of their own taxes, tackle corruption, and ensure good governance. We will work with companies to ensure they have sustainable supply chains that are free from slavery, treat their workers fairly, and pay taxes where they are due.

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**Labour will:**

- conduct a Strategic Defence and Security Review in the first year of government
- return Britain to a leadership role in Europe, but reform the EU so that it works for Britain
- guarantee no powers will be transferred to Brussels without an in/out referendum
- appoint an International LGBT Rights Envoy and a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom
- outlaw discrimination against and abuse of members of the Armed Forces enshrine the Military Covenant in the NHS Constitution push for global targets to tackle inequality and promote human rights establish a Centre for Universal Health Coverage
- push for an ambitious target in Paris to get to goal of net zero global emissions in the second half of this century.

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**Global action for security and prosperity**

In a more globalised, interdependent world, freedom for individuals is not best protected solely by the nation state. Corporations, banks and markets now operate across the globe with little respect for national borders. Climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our age, is by its nature global. And criminals, hackers and terrorists now operate across borders, too. It is in the interests of all countries to create a system of international law and governance, both treaty-based and multilateral, at the global level. We will ensure Britain actively and constructively works with our allies and partners in the European Union, Commonwealth, UN and NATO to engage with and develop policy responses when liberal internationalism and the rules-based system are challenged.

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Liberal Democrats are internationalists because we respect the rights of human beings wherever they live and understand that by working together countries can achieve more than they can alone. This is particularly true for a country like the UK with a rich web of global relationships, which gives it the potential to wield greater influence than its economic or military power alone would permit.

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In a more globalised, interdependent world, freedom for individuals is not best protected solely by the nation state. Corporations, banks and markets now operate across the globe with little respect for national borders. Climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our age, is by its nature global. And criminals, hackers and terrorists now operate across borders, too. It is in the interests of all countries to create a system of international law and governance, both treaty-based and multilateral, at the global level.

Liberal Democrats have worked tirelessly in government to keep Britain at the heart of the European Union, to secure the best deal for British citizens. Our Ministers have represented the UK across the world on vital issues from climate change to nuclear disarmament and secured agreements that will keep us all safer, not least the International Arms Trade Treaty. We have stood up for human rights, the rule of international law and humanitarian aid, delivering for the

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first time on the 40 year old UN ambition for developed countries to spend 0.7% of national income as Official Development Assistance.

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We will ensure Britain actively and constructively works with our allies and partners in the European Union, Commonwealth, UN and NATO to engage with and develop policy responses when liberal internationalism and the rules-based system are challenged.

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A Record of Delivery	A Promise of More
Increased aid spending to 0.7% of national income, and guaranteed this in law	Ensure the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals aim to end poverty, protect the environment and leave no one behind
Secured a record £23.9 billion last year from clamping down on tax evasion, avoidance and fraud, and won G8 agreement on transparency on the real owners of businesses	Improve tax transparency including in low-income countries by extending country-by-country reporting from banks and extractive industries to all UK listed companies
Passed a law to guarantee a referendum before Britain passes any more powers to the EU	Ensure Britain plays a constructive part in the European Union and any referendum triggered by the EU Act is on the big question: In or Out
Agreed an ambitious EU target of 40% cuts to carbon emissions by 2030, and secured Rio+20 agreements on sustainable development	Work to secure a binding global agreement on cutting emissions, and a stronger commitment within the EU to a 50% reduction by 2030
Supported our armed forces and veterans, enshrining the Armed Forces Covenant in law	Focus on ensuring our armed forces have the training and equipment they need for the threats of today and end continuous nuclear weapon patrols

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### 11.1 Working for peace and security across the world

From the recent collapse of talks between Israelis and Palestinians to Russian interference in Ukraine, this is a challenging time for peace and security across the world. At times like these we need to redouble our diplomatic efforts and work closely with our EU and NATO partners to promote an active, rights-based foreign policy for our mutual defence.

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The UK has a proud record of playing a leading role in the European Union and in international institutions like the UN, NATO and the Commonwealth and should continue to do so, wherever possible promoting our values of freedom and opportunity for all.

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We will:

- Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military cooperation – to focus UK policy on conflict prevention. This will require a joint approach across the MOD, FCO, DFID and other departments, and we will continue to assess UK government actions for their impacts on conflict prevention and security. This will be a priority within the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), which should begin immediately after the election.
- Engage with and strengthen multilateral UN and treaty-based institutions worldwide.
- Support the UN principle of Responsibility to Protect. This principle focuses on the security of individuals, rather than states.
- Improve control of arms exports by:
  - Implementing a policy of ‘presumption of denial’ for arms exports to countries listed as countries of concern in the Foreign Office’s annual human rights report.
  - Requiring end-user certification on all future arms export licenses with an annual report to Parliament on this certification.

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Should all these institutions and policies fail, we recognise it will be necessary to consider military interventions to protect ourselves and fulfil our international obligations. However in these circumstances, Liberal Democrats believe the UK should intervene only when there is a clear legal and/or humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in Parliament, working within the remit of international institutions wherever and whenever possible.

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In response to current major conflicts worldwide, we will:

- Promote democracy and stability in Ukraine and neighbouring countries against an increasingly assertive Russia. We will work closely with EU and other international partners to exert maximum economic and political pressure on Russia to stop interfering in

the affairs of sovereign Eastern European nations, and will stand by our obligations under the NATO treaty in the event of threats to NATO member states. We will work with the EU to develop an EU energy strategy that will reduce reliance on Russia's energy supplies.

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- Continue to work with international partners – Western, African and Arab – to tackle Islamic fanaticism embodied by organisations like the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria and Boko Haram in Nigeria. These extremist organisations pervert Islam and carry out appalling atrocities against Muslims as well as non-Muslims. This is a generational challenge that will take time and patience. We favour broadening the international Coalition against IS.
- Recognising that airstrikes alone will not defeat IS, continue a comprehensive approach, in compliance with international law, to supporting the Iraqi government in standing against IS, including:
  - Assistance in strengthening its democratic institutions.
  - Training the Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters.
  - Humanitarian relief to help alleviate the suffering of displaced Syrians and Iraqis.
- Support the moderate opposition in Syria, who are fighting both President Bashar al-Assad and IS. We will continue to push for an inclusive political transition in Syria, which would enable Syrian moderates from all sides to unite against extremism and tyranny.
- Remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which includes a two-state solution. We condemn disproportionate force used by all sides. We condemn Hamas' rocket attacks and other targeting of Israeli civilians. We condemn Israel's continued illegal policy of settlement expansion, which undermines the possibility of a two-state solution. We support recognition of the independent State of Palestine as and when it will help the prospect of a two-state solution.
- Support multilateral negotiations to stop Iran obtaining nuclear weapons. We will continue to seek normalisation of our diplomatic relations with Iran, including reopening the British Embassy in Tehran and promoting peaceful dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

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## 11.2 Our armed forces and security services

The UK must be able to defend itself and the territories for which it has responsibility, support its neighbours and allies, and engage in humanitarian intervention. Many of the security challenges

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the UK faces are shared by our partners and allies in the EU and NATO and the UK is more effective and more resilient when we work closely with those partners.

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Liberal Democrats are clear that the security offered by our continued membership of the EU is more crucial than ever, as are our bilateral relationships with our key European allies. We favour greater integration of military capabilities and procurement to address common problems, to overcome economic constraints and to maintain a full spectrum of defence capabilities. To achieve this, we will build on the treaty-based arrangements we have established and extend this cooperation to other suitable European partners.

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Liberal Democrats are committed to meeting our national and international obligations in security and defence. This is why in government over the last five years we met the NATO commitment to spend 2% of our GDP on defence, most recently restated in the Readiness Action Plan and Defence Industrial Pledge at the Wales NATO Summit in 2014. We are committed to completing a comprehensive Strategic Defence and Security Review early in the next Parliament to inform future defence spending decisions. We recognise that the world has changed fundamentally since the last such review. It is vital that our real security and defence needs and international obligations are considered in the SDSR, and this is why we wish to move towards a Single Security Budget.

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We will:

- Conduct a Strategic Defence and Security Review in which we will revisit and update the Future Force 2020 vision and ensure the capabilities we are invested in are relevant for keeping Britain safe.
- Use the SDSR to establish a Single Security Budget, including not just conventional defence spending but the work of our security agencies, cyber defences and soft power interventions. The Single Security Budget will be distributed by the SDSR process, as part of an overall Spending Review. This integrated approach will ensure spending choices follow the capabilities we need, not traditional departmental silos.
- Maintain strong and effective armed forces and the capability to deploy rapidly expeditionary forces.
- Set long-term budgets to invest in the right equipment at competitive prices.

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- Recognise the expansion of warfare into the cybersphere, by investing in our security and intelligence services and acting to counter cyber attacks.
- Remain fully engaged in international nuclear disarmament efforts.
- Step down the nuclear ladder by procuring fewer Vanguard successor submarines and moving from continuous at sea deterrence to a contingency posture of regular patrols, enabling a surge to armed patrols when the international security context makes this appropriate. This would help us to fulfil our Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty commitments and reduce the UK nuclear warhead stockpile.
- Work for new global standards to end the use of conventional explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas.
- Promote European defence integration where appropriate by enhancing European defence industry co-operation.

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Liberal Democrats recognise the vital role the UK's armed forces play in the defence of the nation and believe that it is the role of government to safeguard the interests of service personnel and veterans. We strongly support the Armed Forces Covenant, now enshrined in law in the 2011 Armed Forces Act. We also propose:

- Transferring the Office of the Veterans' Minister to the Cabinet Office, so that the services of all departments can be marshalled in support of veterans and creating a post of Veterans' Commissioner.
- Improving support for personnel and veterans with mental health problems, including alcohol dependency.
- Strengthening local military covenants by defining more exacting guidelines and ensuring best practice is rolled out across all Local Authorities.

The government in 2011 set a target for increasing the size of the Reserves to 30,000 but it is significantly behind in achieving this goal, with continued problems of retention. We acknowledge the different pressures that Reserves face and propose that:

- Emphasis be put on improving retention and training of Reserves at current levels.



- Employers be required to offer two weeks' unpaid leave annually to assist Reserves attending training camps.

### 11.3 Britain in Europe: prosperity and reform

Britain's membership of the EU is essential for creating a stronger economy and for projecting influence in the world. Millions of British jobs are linked to our trade with the EU, and being in Europe puts us on a more equal footing when negotiating trade deals with global players like the USA and China and in countering security threats. A modernised EU is crucial to responding to the global challenges Britain faces, whether they are climate change, cross-border crime and terrorism, or conflict.

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If the UK were to leave the EU, trade rules would be made without us, our voice would not be heard in climate change negotiations and our borders would be more vulnerable. There is no doubt the UK would be poorer and weaker if we walked away from our closest neighbours and most trusted allies and left the EU.

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But that does not mean that the institutions and policies of the European Union are perfect and do not need reform. Liberal Democrats are the party of reform whether that is in Westminster, Holyrood, the Senedd or in local Councils and the EU is no exception.

Liberal Democrats in Government have already secured significant reforms like cutting the EU budget by £30 billion and reforming the Common Fisheries Policy, ending the discarding of usable fish. We have also shifted the balance of EU spending towards jobs, growth and innovation. Only by remaining fully engaged in the EU can we deliver the further reforms that are urgently needed not only for the UK, but also for the rest of the EU.

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We will:

- Work to deepen the EU single market in the energy sector, in the digital economy and for services. We will boost British exports by scrapping national barriers to British firms trading online and by concluding ambitious EU trade agreements with key markets like Japan and India. We will implement the recommendations made by Michael Moore MP in

October 2014, including publishing an annual European Business White Paper and appointing an EU Business Minister to lead this competitiveness agenda.

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- Support negotiations at the World Trade Organisation as well as an ambitious Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the USA, which could bring benefits of up to £10 billion a year to the British economy. We will only support an agreement that upholds EU standards of consumer, employee and environmental protection, and allows us to determine how NHS services are provided.
- Work to reform the EU to make it more efficient, reducing the proportion of the EU budget spent on the Common Agricultural Policy, abolishing unnecessary EU institutions like the European Economic and Social Committee and scrapping the second seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.
- Continue to reduce the burden of EU legislation on business by curbing unnecessary red tape, exempting small businesses from EU rules where possible and defending the UK opt-out to the Working Time Directive.
- Increase the accountability of the EU by enhancing the role of national Parliaments in scrutinising EU decision-making and by giving a combined majority of national Parliaments the automatic ability to block unwanted legislation. We will strengthen UK scrutiny of European legislation and positions taken by British Ministers in Europe including by proposing an explicit role for British Parliamentary Select Committees.
- Hold an In/Out referendum when there is next any Treaty change involving a material transfer of sovereignty from the UK to the EU. Liberal Democrats will campaign for the UK to remain in the European Union when that referendum comes.
- Reinforce the EU's tools for tackling cross border crime, strengthening the role of the European Cyber Crime Centre and reforming the European Arrest Warrant to prevent miscarriages of justice while ensuring swift delivery of justice.
- Cooperate with other European countries to address environmental threats and tackle climate change by securing agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and developing the EU Energy Union.
- Support EU free movement, which is hugely beneficial to millions of British citizens living in other European countries as well as to the British economy and the public sector, for example the thousands of European health workers who make a vital contribution to the

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running of the NHS. We will prevent any perceived 'right to claim' by tightening benefit rules for EU migrants, including reducing, and ultimately abolishing, payment of Child Benefit to children who are not resident in the UK. We will also lengthen transitional controls for new EU member countries, and eliminate loopholes.

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- Cooperate with other European countries to address the pressure of migration across the Mediterranean. We will push for more effective EU measures to prevent the tragic loss of life for many crossing the Mediterranean, including through greater cooperation with anti-human-trafficking operations.
- Continue to work closely with other EU governments on foreign policy issues towards Russia, Ukraine, the Middle East and North Africa. We will build on our already close defence cooperation with France, the Netherlands, the Nordic states and other European countries, as the most reliable basis for British security.

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#### 11.4 International development

In government, Liberal Democrats have led the way on international development and aid. We have worked to end the use of rape as a weapon of war. We have led international efforts to tackle the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone and, through investment in the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI), Britain is a global leader in preventing communicable diseases.

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Now, we need to build on progress made since the agreement of the Millennium Development Goals and work to eliminate absolute poverty by 2030 – through aid but also through economic development.

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We will:

- Develop a whole-government approach to development.
- Continue to promote private sector economic development, ensuring this benefits local people and small businesses not just multinational corporations. We will lead international action to ensure global companies pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, including tightening anti-tax haven rules and requiring large companies to publish their tax payments and profits for each country in which they operate.

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- Maintain our commitment to spend 0.7% of UK Gross National Income on overseas development, which the International Development Act 2015, introduced by a Liberal Democrat, now enshrines in law. We will adhere to the OECD's definition of what activities qualify.
- Conduct a full Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Review to ensure that the Department for International Development continues to work in the right places and through the right channels.
- Continue building the resilience of poorer countries to resist future disasters, investing in healthcare and infrastructure and training emergency response volunteers, and respond generously to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur.
- Work to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals aim to:
  - Safeguard the sustainability of the planet.
  - Leave no one behind, helping the most vulnerable as well as improving average living standards. We will ensure people do not suffer discrimination or disadvantage because of gender, sexual orientation, disability or ethnic origin.
  - Eliminate absolute poverty by 2030.
- Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support public and private research and development into treatment for these and other deadly diseases and infections.
- Create a new civil society partnership scheme to build links between peoples in rich and poor countries, including partnerships between communities, trade unions or emergency services.

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### 11.5 International action on the environment

The open and internationalist approach Liberal Democrats have always adopted is particularly crucial when it comes to environmental policy. Pollution does not respect national borders, and wildlife and ecosystems are not constrained by political boundaries. Challenges like climate change and deforestation are too massive for individual countries to tackle alone.

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We will:

- Continue pushing for a 50% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and the greater use of EU funds to support low-carbon investments, while ensuring the UK meets its own climate commitments and plays a leadership role in efforts to combat climate change.
- Work to secure agreement on a global climate treaty at the 2015 UN Climate Conference, supported by a well-financed Green Climate Fund to assist poorer countries to tackle and adapt to climate change.
- Work with regulatory bodies and financial investors to establish a global reporting standard for fossil fuel companies on the potential impact of future restrictions on carbon emissions on their asset base.
- Provide greater resources for international environmental cooperation, particularly on actions to tackle illegal trade in timber, wildlife and fish.
- Argue for an EU and global target of halting net global deforestation by 2020 – including supporting better forest law enforcement and governance and sustainable agriculture, closing loopholes in the EU Timber Regulation and ensuring that by 2020 only legal and sustainable timber products can be sold in the UK.
- Ensure UK and EU development aid, free trade and investment agreements support environmental goals and sustainable investment, including maintaining the UK's International Climate Fund and supporting direct bilateral programmes with developing countries on climate change.
- Create a one million square kilometre southern Atlantic Ocean reserve.
- Push for the creation of a marine nature reserve in the Arctic Ocean, promote the highest possible environmental standards for UK companies operating in the region and press for a ban on EU-flagged vessels undertaking industrial fishing in the previously unfished areas of the Arctic.

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### 11.6 Standing up for Liberal values

Liberal Democrats believe British foreign policy and international aid should seek to advance human rights and democracy throughout the world. We believe all people – regardless of ethnicity, disability, age, belief, gender or sexual orientation – deserve a freer, fairer and more prosperous world.

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We will:

- Continue to support free media and a free and open Internet around the world, championing the free flow of information.
- Maintain funding to BBC World Service, BBC Monitoring and the British Council.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world, and advancing the cause of LGBT+ rights.
- Prioritise support, protection and equal rights for women and girls, which is essential for effective, sustainable economic development. We will pursue an International Gender Equality Strategy, work to secure women’s rights to education and freedom from forced marriage; and aim to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation.
- Extend existing reporting rules to establish consistent requirements on all large UK companies to report on the social, environmental and human rights impacts of their activities and those of their supply chains.
- The recent Islamist extremist attacks on journalists in Europe are a sharp reminder of the need to protect freedom of speech and belief internationally. We will appoint an Ambassador-level Champion for Freedom of Belief to drive British diplomatic efforts in this field, and we will campaign for the abolition of blasphemy, sedition, apostasy and criminal libel laws worldwide, having already been responsible for ending them in this country.

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Conservative 2017: “Forward, Together”

Chapter 2: A strong and united nation in a changing world

Theresa May’s Conservatives will deliver:

- The best possible deal for Britain as we leave the European Union delivered by a smooth, orderly Brexit.
- A strong and stable Union, with no divisive Scottish referendum at this time.
- A United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund, taken from money coming back to the UK as we leave the EU, to reduce inequalities between communities across our four nations.
- Global leadership on development, backed by spending 0.7 per cent of our national income with new rules to spend it more effectively.
- Strong defence, meeting our NATO target of at least 2 per cent of GDP and increasing spending by at least half a per cent more than inflation every year.
- Security from crime and terrorism, backed by a new national infrastructure police force, a stronger response to white collar crime and our world-leading counter-terrorism strategy.

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The United Kingdom is embarking upon another era in our centuries-old story. We are leaving the European Union. We want to ensure our departure is smooth and orderly and to agree a deep and special partnership with the 27 remaining member states.

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In leaving the European Union, we have chosen a truly global role for Britain. To strike trade deals with old friends and new partners and take a leading position in the world to defend British interests, we must be strong and united.

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This begins with our determination to defend the integrity of the United Kingdom and to strengthen the Union, bringing the peoples of the United Kingdom together.

**Leaving the European Union**

Following the historic referendum on 23rd June 2016, the United Kingdom is leaving the European Union. Only the Conservative Party, under Theresa May’s strong and stable leadership, can negotiate the best possible deal for our country. In her Lancaster House Speech, the prime minister

laid out the twelve principles she intends to follow in seeking a new deep and special partnership with the European Union. We have explained our approach in the White Paper on the United Kingdom's Exit from, and a new relationship with, the European Union, during the passage of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act, in the prime minister's letter to the president of the European Council invoking Article 50, and in the Great Repeal Bill White Paper.

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We want to agree a deep and special partnership with the European Union. This partnership will benefit both the European Union and the United Kingdom: while we are leaving the European Union, we are not leaving Europe, and we want to remain committed partners and allies to our friends across the continent.

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The negotiations will undoubtedly be tough, and there will be give and take on both sides, but we continue to believe that no deal is better than a bad deal for the UK. But we will enter the negotiations in a spirit of sincere cooperation and committed to getting the best deal for Britain. We will make sure we have certainty and clarity over our future, control of our own laws, and a more unified, strengthened United Kingdom. We will control immigration and secure the entitlements of EU nationals in Britain and British nationals in the EU. We will maintain the Common Travel Area and maintain as frictionless a border as possible for people, goods and services between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Workers' rights conferred on British citizens from our membership of the EU will remain. We will pursue free trade with European markets, and secure new trade agreements with other countries. We want to work together in the fight against crime and terrorism, collaborate in science and innovation – and secure a smooth, orderly Brexit. And we will protect the democratic freedom of the people of Gibraltar and our overseas territories to remain British, for as long as that is their wish. The final agreement will be subject to a vote in both houses of parliament.

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As we leave the European Union, we will no longer be members of the single market or customs union but we will seek a deep and special partnership including a comprehensive free trade and customs agreement. There may be specific European programmes in which we might want to participate and if so, it will be reasonable that we make a contribution. We will determine a fair settlement of the UK's rights and obligations as a departing member state, in accordance with the



law and in the spirit of the UK's continuing partnership with the EU. The principle, however, is clear: the days of Britain making vast annual contributions to the European Union will end.

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We want fair, orderly negotiations, minimising disruption and giving as much certainty as possible – so both sides benefit. We believe it is necessary to agree the terms of our future partnership alongside our withdrawal, reaching agreement on both within the two years allowed by Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

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### Repatriating EU law to the United Kingdom

We will enact a Great Repeal Bill. Our laws will be made in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, and interpreted by judges across the United Kingdom, not in Luxembourg. The bill will convert EU law into UK law, allowing businesses and individuals to go about life knowing that the rules have not changed overnight. This approach means that the rights of workers and protections given to consumers and the environment by EU law will continue to be available in UK law at the point at which we leave the EU. The bill will also create the necessary powers to correct the laws that do not operate appropriately once we have left the EU, so our legal system can continue to function correctly outside the EU. Once EU law has been converted into domestic law, parliament will be able to pass legislation to amend, repeal or improve any piece of EU law it chooses, as will the devolved legislatures, where they have the power to do so.

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As powers return from the EU, we will be able to determine the level best placed to take decisions on these issues, ensuring that power sits closer to the people of the United Kingdom than ever before. We expect that the outcome will be a significant increase in the decision-making power of each devolved administration but we must also ensure that as we leave the EU no new barriers to living and doing business within our own union are created. In some areas, this will require common UK frameworks. We will work closely with the devolved administrations to deliver an approach that works for the whole of the United Kingdom and reflects the needs and individual circumstances of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As well as the Great Repeal Bill, we will bring forward a number of additional bills to ensure that when we have left the EU there is a clear statutory basis for United Kingdom authorities to exercise powers that are currently exercised through EU law and institutions.

We will not bring the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights into UK law. We will not repeal or replace the Human Rights Act while the process of Brexit is underway but we will consider our human rights legal framework when the process of leaving the EU concludes. We will remain signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights for the duration of the next parliament.

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### Global Britain

The United Kingdom is a global nation. Our history is a global history; our future must be global too. We believe Britain should play an active, leading role in the world. Not because it is our right or inheritance, but because our leadership in the world is the surest way to defend and advance the interests of the British people, and to extend around the world those values that we believe to be right.

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The United Kingdom is already a global power. We have a leading diplomatic service and one of the largest overseas development budgets in the world. Our armed forces are respected around the world and enable us to project power globally. Our global businesses and London's position as the global centre of finance make us more interconnected with the global economy than any other comparable nation.

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Britain is already a significant influence for good around the world. Our aid is giving millions an education and an opportunity to rise out of poverty. Our naval vessels are stopping the vile trade in people and in drugs. We are at the forefront of action against global climate change.

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We can and should do more, not just because acting as a force for good is an important end in itself but because the result will be greater peace and prosperity for the British people. We will continue to champion British values around the globe: freedom, democracy, tolerance and the rule of law. We will be the world's foremost champion of free trade. We will expand our global efforts to

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combat extremism, terror, and the perpetration of violence against people because of their faith, gender or sexuality. We will continue to lead international action against climate change, and the degradation of habitat and loss of species. We will continue to lead a global campaign for the education of women and girls, which is the key to progress in so many countries. We will lead the fight against modern slavery, just as we overcame the trade in slaves two hundred years ago. We will lead a global effort to close down online spaces for those who abuse children, incite violence or propagate hate speech. We shall lead the world in the hard work to end extreme child poverty and co-ordinate efforts against microbial resistance and emerging tropical diseases. And we will take up leadership in a new arena, where concern is shared around the world: we will be the global leader in the regulation of the use of personal data and the internet.

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### British leadership in international institutions

The security and prosperity of the United Kingdom is built on the international institutions that we helped to found and will continue to help maintain: the United Nations and the UN Security Council, NATO – the cornerstone of our defence, the Commonwealth, the G20, G7 and the World Trade Organization. We will continue to give strong support to an international order in which rules govern state conduct; in our own behaviour we will support this system and apply it in a principled way. We shall continue to seek to reform multilateral institutions, especially in the way they distribute development funds, so that money is used to greatest effect to protect and help the world's most vulnerable people.

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### Global partnerships and alliances

Alongside our proposed deep and special partnership with the European Union, we will maintain the historical, cultural and economic ties that link us to our old friends and allies around the globe. We will build upon our existing special relationship with the United States, and forge new economic and security partnerships that make us more prosperous at home and more secure abroad. We will strengthen our close links with our Commonwealth allies, continuing our mission together to promote democratic values around the world and build on our existing economic relationships to further our common trading interests. We will develop alliances and co-operate more with old friends and new partners.

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### **A global champion of free trade**

The United Kingdom will be a global champion for an open economy, free trade, and the free flow of investment, ideas and information. Open and free trade is key to international prosperity, stability and security – it is an essential component of an economy that works for everyone. We believe the UK must seize the unique opportunities it has to forge a new set of trade and investment relationships around the world, building a global, outward- looking Britain.

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### **Promoting British culture around the world**

The United Kingdom is home to some of the finest cultural institutions in the world. We will continue to promote those institutions and ensure they have the resources they need to amplify Britain’s voice on the world stage and as a global force for good. We will continue to promote democracy, the rule of law, property entitlements, a free and open media, and accountable institutions in countries and societies across the world.

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We will place the BBC World Service and the British Council on a secure footing so they are able to promote the best of British values around the globe and build strong ties between our local communities and other countries.

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### **Leading the world in development**

British aid helps millions and is a powerful statement of Global Britain’s place in the world. It protects our interests: by building a safer, healthier, more prosperous world, we can protect our own people from disease, conflict and instability. This is the right ambition for a country with a global outlook, so we will maintain the commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of our gross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies.

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We will continue to use our aid budget in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, to end extreme poverty, save children’s lives, and provide an education for girls. We will work to end the subjugation and mutilation of women, to combat the brutal slave trade in fellow human beings and to prevent catastrophic environmental degradation. And we will continue to lead global efforts to tackle sexual violence in conflict.

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British scientists and inventors have helped to address some of the greatest challenges facing the world's poorest people. A global Britain should aspire to do even more: we will significantly increase our funding of UK-led medical and technical research into the biggest threats to global health and prosperity.

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There are still ways that we can improve the way that taxpayers' money is used to help the world's most vulnerable people. We do not believe that international definitions of development assistance always help in determining how money should be spent, on whom and for what purpose. So we will work with like-minded countries to change the rules so that they are updated and better reflect the breadth of our assistance around the world. If that does not work, we will change the law to allow us to use a better definition of development spending, while continuing to meet our 0.7 per cent target.

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### Reforming asylum

We will ensure Britain remains a place of sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers. The existing system, however, is geared towards people who are young enough, fit enough, and have the resources to get to Britain, rather than those who are most in need of our help.

Wherever possible, the government will offer asylum and refuge to people in parts of the world affected by conflict and oppression, rather than to those who have made it to Britain. We will work to reduce asylum claims made in Britain and, as we do so, increase the number of people we help in the most troubled regions. We will continue to work with other countries in Europe, and the United Nations, to review the international legal definitions of asylum and refugee status.

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We will make sure our councils get the help they need to deal with people as they arrive, and establish schemes to help individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to provide housing and other support for refugees.

### Protecting the global environment

The United Kingdom will lead the world in environmental protection. As Conservatives, we are committed to leaving the environment in better condition than we inherited it. That is why we will

continue to take a lead in global action against climate change, as the government demonstrated by ratifying the Paris Agreement. We were the first country to introduce a Climate Change Act, which Conservatives helped to frame, and we are halfway towards meeting our 2050 goal of reducing emissions by eighty per cent from 1990 levels.

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We will champion greater conservation co-operation within international bodies, protecting rare species, the polar regions and international waters. We will work with our Overseas Territory governments to create a Blue Belt of marine protection in their precious waters, establishing the largest marine sanctuaries anywhere in the world.

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### Modern slavery

The UK is a global leader in fighting the evil trade in human beings – both around the world and in our own country – for sex and labour exploitation. As home secretary, Theresa May brought forward the Modern Slavery Act, the first of its kind in Europe, appointed the world's first anti-slavery commissioner and set up the Modern Slavery Taskforce to bring together the heads of MI5, MI6 and the National Crime Agency to co-ordinate our response to criminal gangs operating across the world.

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We now need to go further. We need to focus on the exploitation of vulnerable men, women and children for their labour, people who are moved around our own country and between nations, as if they were not human at all. We will review the application of exploitation in the Modern Slavery Act to strengthen our ability to stop criminals putting men, women and children into criminal, dangerous and exploitative working conditions. And the UK will use its power to push the United Nations and other international bodies to make Modern Slavery a thing of the past.

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### Strong defence in an uncertain world

Our world is full of opportunity but is also riven by conflict, terrorism and threat.

As a global power, we have a responsibility to sustain our fine armed forces so that they can defend the realm, our overseas territories and our interests around the globe. We will play a leading role in NATO and maintain the ability to conduct strike operations, peacekeeping, security missions and the deployment of a joint expeditionary force. We will maintain the overall size of the armed

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forces, including an army that is capable of fielding a war-fighting division. We shall expand our reach around the world. We will retain the Trident continuous-at-sea nuclear deterrent to provide the ultimate guarantee of our security.

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We have the biggest defence budget in Europe and the second largest in NATO. We will continue to meet the NATO commitment to spend at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence and we will increase the defence budget by at least 0.5 per cent above inflation in every year of the new parliament.

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### **The finest servicemen and women**

We will attract and retain the best men and women for our armed forces, including by engaging them on a flexible basis. We will protect our brave armed forces personnel from persistent legal claims, which distress those who risk their lives for us, cost the taxpayer millions and undermine the armed forces in the service they give. Under a Conservative government, British troops will in future be subject to the Law of Armed Conflict, which includes the Geneva Convention and UK Service Law, not the European Court of Human Rights. We will strengthen legal services regulation and restrict legal aid for unscrupulous law firms that issue vexatious legal claims against the armed forces. We will introduce better compensation for injured armed forces personnel and the families of those killed in combat.

### **The best equipment for our armed forces**

We plan to invest £178 billion in new military equipment over the next decade, creating high-skilled jobs across the whole country. For the first time in a generation the Royal Navy is growing. We have cut steel on the first of a new fleet of four Dreadnought ballistic missile boats and we will complete the Astute class of hunter-killer submarines. Our two new aircraft carriers will project British military power for the next fifty years: HMS Queen Elizabeth begins sea trials in the summer and HMS Prince of Wales is due to enter active service in 2020. Alongside our new Type 45 destroyers, we will build eight Type 26 anti-submarine frigates and develop our programme for a new class of lighter, general purpose frigates so that by the 2030s we can further increase the size of our fleet. We shall also deliver five Offshore Patrol Vessels.

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For the Army we will deliver AJAX armoured vehicles, Apache attack helicopters, new drones, new missile and bomb systems, and better equipment for the Special Forces. The Royal Air Force will receive, with the Fleet Air Arm, the Lightning II strike fighter, as well as new Maritime Patrol Aircraft. Taken together, this is the largest programme of investment in our armed forces for generations.

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### **Supporting our veterans**

We will support former members of the armed forces, who were willing to risk their lives for us, as they move into civilian life. We will maintain and strengthen the Armed Forces Covenant. We will help veterans to start new careers by ensuring that the skills and qualifications they gained in service are recognised by civilian employers and by introducing a one year holiday on Employer National Insurance Contributions for firms hiring service personnel after they leave service. We will improve the co-ordination of government services to veterans, including housing, employment and mental health services, by introducing a Veterans Board in the Cabinet Office.



Labour 2017: “For the Many, Not the Few”

## Chapter 2: Negotiating Brexit

### Negotiating Brexit

Labour accepts the referendum result and a Labour government will put the national interest first.

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We will prioritise jobs and living standards, build a close new relationship with the EU, protect workers’ rights and environmental standards, provide certainty to EU nationals and give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.

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We will end Theresa May’s reckless approach to Brexit, and seek to unite the country around a Brexit deal that works for every community in Britain.

We will scrap the Conservatives’ Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities that have a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union – which are essential for maintaining industries, jobs and businesses in Britain. Labour will always put jobs and the economy first.

Commented [MOU1139]: RPEU

A Labour government will immediately guarantee existing rights for all EU nationals living in Britain and secure reciprocal rights for UK citizens who have chosen to make their lives in EU countries. EU nationals do not just contribute to our society: they are part of our society. And they should not be used as bargaining chips.

It is shameful that the Prime Minister rejected repeated attempts by Labour to resolve this issue before Article 50 was triggered. As a result three million EU nationals have suffered unnecessary uncertainty, as have the 1.2 million UK citizens living in the EU.

A Conservative Brexit will weaken workers’ rights, deregulate the economy, slash corporate taxes, sideline Parliament and democratic accountability, and cut Britain off from our closest allies and most important trading partners.

Labour recognises that leaving the EU with ‘no deal’ is the worst possible deal for Britain and that it would do damage to our economy and trade. We will reject ‘no deal’ as a viable option and if needs be negotiate transitional arrangements to avoid a cliff-edge’ for the UK economy.

Commented [MOU1140]: RPEU

The issues that affect our continent now will continue to do so in the future – and Labour will continue to work constructively with the EU and other European nations on issues such as climate change, refugee crises and counter-terrorism. We will build a close co-operative future relationship with the EU, not as members but as partners.

Commented [MOU1141]: RPEU

A Labour government will ensure that the UK maintains our leading research role by seeking to stay part of Horizon 2020 and its successor programmes and by welcoming research staff to the UK. We will seek to maintain membership of (or equivalent relationships with) European organisations which offer benefits to the such as Euratom and the European Medicines Agency. We will seek to ensure that Britain remains part of the Erasmus scheme so that British students have the same educational opportunities after we leave the EU.

Commented [MOU1142]: RPEU

The EU is the UK’s single largest trading partner in agricultural produce, with the vast majority of British exports being sold to European markets. A Labour government will end the uncertainty for our farmers and food producers by securing continued EU market access allowing British farmers and food producers to continue to sell their products on the Continent.

Commented [MOU1143]: GLTS

Labour will also protect our farmers and rural economy by ensuring Britain continues to set the highest standards in food quality and welfare. We will not allow Brexit to be used as an excuse to undercut our farmers and flood Britain’s food chain with cheap and inferior produce.

We will drop the Conservatives’ Great Repeal Bill, replacing it with an EU Rights and Protections Bill that will ensure there is no detrimental change to workers’ rights, equality law, consumer rights or environmental protections as a result of Brexit.

Throughout the Brexit process, we will make sure that all EU derived laws that are of benefit including workplace laws, consumer rights and environmental protections – are fully protected

without qualifications, limitations or sunset clauses. We will work with trade unions, businesses and stakeholders to ensure there is a consensus on this vital issue. A Labour approach to Brexit will ensure there can be no rolling back of key rights and protections and that the UK does not lag behind Europe in workplace protections and environmental standards in future.

The EU has had a huge impact in securing workplace protections and environmental safeguards. But we all know that for many Brexiteers in the Tory Party, this was why they wanted to Leave – to tear up regulations and weaken hard-fought rights and protections.

A Labour government will never consider these rights a burden or accept the weakening of workers' rights, consumer rights or environmental protections.

We will introduce legislation to ensure there are no gaps in national security and criminal justice arrangements as a result of Brexit.

Labour recognises the vital role that cross-border agencies such as Eurojust and Europol have played in making Britain safer and that European Arrest Warrants have been invaluable. A Labour government will seek to retain membership of these agencies and continue European Arrest Warrant arrangements.

Commented [MOU1144]: RPEU

Labour will seek a Brexit deal that delivers for all regions and nations of the UK. We will introduce a 'presumption of devolution' where devolved powers transferred from the EU will go straight to the relevant region or nation. For many people and for much of our country, power can feel just as remote and unaccountable in Westminster as it does in Brussels. So a Labour government will seek to put powers as close to communities as possible.

We will ensure there is no drop in EU Structural Funding as a result of Brexit until the end of the current EU funding round in 2019/20. As part of Labour's plans to rebalance and rebuild the economy, we will ensure that no region or nation of the UK is affected by the withdrawal of funding for the remainder of this Parliament. This will also apply to the funding of peace and reconciliation projects in Northern Ireland.

We will also improve engagement and dialogue with the devolved administrations and seek to ensure the final Brexit deal addresses specific concerns. In particular Labour will ensure there is no return to a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and that there is no change in the status or sovereignty of Gibraltar. We will also protect Gibraltar's economy and ensure that its government can continue to create jobs and prosperity in the years to come.

Commented [MOU1145]: Other

Where Theresa May wants to shut down scrutiny and challenge, Labour will welcome it. We will work with Parliament, not against it. On an issue of this importance the Government can't hide from the public or Parliament.

A Labour approach to Brexit also means legislating to guarantee that Parliament has a truly meaningful vote on the final Brexit deal.

### International trade

Labour is pro-trade and pro-investment. The UK's future prosperity depends on minimising tariff and non-tariff barriers that prevent us from exporting and creating the jobs and economic growth we need.

Commented [MOU1146]: GLTS

A Labour government will work with devolved administrations to bring forward an integrated trade and industrial strategy that boosts exports, investment and decent jobs in Britain. Labour will set out our priorities in an International Trade White Paper to lead a national debate on the future of Britain's trade policy. We will ensure proper transparency and parliamentary scrutiny of all future trade and investment deals.

The EU accounts for 44 per cent of our current exports and will continue to be a priority trading partner. As our trading relationship with the EU changes it is vital that we retain unrestricted access for our goods and services.

Commented [MOU1147]: GLTS

Through our Just Trading initiative launched in 2016, Labour will work with global trading partners to develop best-in-class' free trade and investment agreements that remove trade barriers

and promote skilled jobs and high standards. We will ensure all future trade deals safeguard the right to regulate in the public interest and to protect public services.

Commented [MOU1148]: GLTS

Commented [MOU1149]: TL (eco)

Labour is committed to the rules-based international trading system of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). We will rejoin the Government Procurement Agreement, whilst safeguarding the capacity for public bodies to make procurement decisions in keeping with public policy objectives.

Commented [MOU1150]: GLTS

Labour will build human rights and social justice into trade policy. We will ensure that trade agreements cannot undermine human rights and labour standards, and that UK Export Finance support is not available to companies engaged in bribery or corrupt practices.

Commented [MOU1151]: TL (eco)

We will work with other WTO members to end the dumping of state-subsidised goods on our markets. The Conservatives consistently blocked efforts to respond to such dumping with the duties needed to defend the British steel industry. Labour will develop the full range of trade remedies necessary to support key sectors affected by these unfair practices.

Commented [MOU1152]: GLTS

Labour will champion the export interests of SMEs, ensuring all new trade agreements include a commitment to support their market access needs. We will develop an export incentive scheme for SMEs based on international best practice, and we will ring-fence Tradeshow Access Programme grants to help SMEs reach new customers around the world.

Commented [MOU1153]: GLTS

Labour will use the full range of export credit, finance, insurance and trade promotion tools to boost British exports and support priority industrial sectors.

Commented [MOU1154]: GLTS

We will create a network of regional trade and investment champions to promote the export and investment interests of businesses across the country, and we will include regional representation on overseas trade missions.

Commented [MOU1155]: GLTS

Labour is committed to growing the digital economy and ensuring that trade agreements do not impede cross-border data flows, whilst maintaining strong data protection rules to protect personal privacy.

Commented [MOU1156]: GLTS

As part of our commitment to a low-carbon future, we will actively support international negotiations towards an Environmental Goods Agreement at the WTO. Labour will use trade negotiations to boost market access for British environmental goods and services, alongside support for investment into new green technologies and innovative low-carbon products.

Commented [MOU1157]: TL (enviro)

Labour will develop capital investment schemes and other incentives to encourage investment into the UK, especially into target areas identified by the industrial strategy. We will champion the UK as a safe investment environment.

Commented [MOU1158]: GLTS

Labour will review our historic investment treaties with other countries, ensuring they are fit for purpose for the 21st century. Labour opposes parallel investor-state dispute systems for multinational corporations and we will open a dialogue with trading partners on alternative options that provide investor protection whilst guaranteeing equality before the law.

Commented [MOU1159]: GLTS

## Chapter 12: A Global Britain

### A Global Britain

Labour will take all necessary measures to protect the security of our citizens and country. We will put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy, commit to working through the UN, end support for unilateral aggressive wars of intervention and back effective action to alleviate the refugee crisis.

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Commented [MOU1161]: GP

Commented [MOU1162]: LI

Commented [MOU1163]: SQP

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Commented [MOU1165]: LI

Unlike the Conservatives, Labour believes Britain's foreign policy should be guided by the values of peace, universal rights and international law. Today, these values are being tested. As we leave the European Union, keeping Britain global is one of our country's most urgent tasks.

Commented [MOU1166]: Other

Commented [MOU1167]: LI

Commented [MOU1168]: SQP

Commented [MOU1169]: Other

We face the most complex, interwoven security and development challenges of our time; ongoing wars across the Middle East, unprecedented numbers of refugees, global terrorism, climate change, the threat of nuclear conflict, a devastating food crisis across East Africa and beyond, an erratic US administration and a more combative government in Russia.

The lessons of the past, including those from the Chilcot Inquiry, show why our response to these challenges must be different. We cannot seek to solve the world's problems on our own, but instead must exhaust diplomatic solutions alongside international, regional and local partners within the framework of international law.

Commented [MOU1170]: Other

This will require a modern and inclusive strategy, uniting the interwoven foreign policy instruments of diplomacy, defence and development.

### Diplomacy

Labour recognises that, in leaving the EU, Britain will face both challenges and opportunities. We are deeply ambitious for our country's future and will draw on our international networks to make Britain a champion of multilateral engagement. We will invest in the UK's diplomatic services, rebuilding some of the key capabilities lost as a result of Tory cuts.

Commented [MOU1171]: Other

Commented [MOU1172]: Other

Since the Second World War, Britain's most important diplomatic relationship has been with the US. But that special relationship is based on shared values. When the current Trump administration chooses to ignore them, whether by discriminating on the basis of religion or breaking its climate change commitments, we will not be afraid to disagree.

Commented [MOU1173]: FAUS

Commented [MOU1174]: GP

From the Middle East to Africa, in recent years millions of people have been killed, injured or displaced through wars, terrorism and military intervention. In Syria alone, more than 400,000 people have been killed. Labour will work tirelessly to end the conflict and get the diplomatic process back on track, while fully supporting international efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of war crimes.

Commented [MOU1175]: GP

Labour is strongly committed to reducing human suffering caused by war. We will publish a strategy for protecting civilians in conflict, setting out detailed plans for work on conflict prevention and resolution, post- conflict peacebuilding, and justice for the victims of war crimes. Labour has created a Minister for Peace and Disarmament to lead this work.

Commented [MOU1176]: LI

Labour is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution – a secure Israel alongside a secure and viable state of Palestine. There can be no military solution to this conflict and all sides must avoid taking action that would make peace harder to achieve. That means both an end to the blockade, occupation and settlements, and an end to rocket and terror attacks. Labour will continue to press for an immediate return to meaningful negotiations leading to a diplomatic resolution. A Labour government will immediately recognise the state of Palestine.

Commented [MOU1177]: GP

Commented [MOU1178]: GP

We will also urge negotiations towards a political resolution in all other regions currently experiencing conflict, including Kashmir, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, and give our strong support to those countries already working to end decades of division, including Colombia, Cyprus and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Commented [MOU1179]: GP

In other regions, including the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea, rising tensions threaten global peace. Under a Labour government, Britain will work to reduce those tensions through an insistence on multilateral political dialogue.

Commented [MOU1180]: GP

From Afghanistan and Iraq to the streets of European cities, Daesh continues to commit acts of indiscriminate barbarism. We will take all lawful action necessary to counter and confront this evil, and we will advocate a long-term multinational political strategy, led by regional actors, to tackle the spread of extremism.

Commented [MOU1181]: GP

In our discussions with different governments, including China, Egypt, the Gulf States, Myanmar, the Philippines, Russia and Turkey, we will urge respect for human rights and the rule of law. We will review all training and equipment contracts with repressive regimes, to ensure that Britain never colludes in the mistreatment of civilians.

Commented [MOU1182]: LI



We will always stand up for the rights, interests and self-determination of Britain's overseas territories and their citizens, whether protecting the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands against anyone who would seek to challenge it, or supporting the right of the Chagos islanders to return to their homelands.

Commented [MOU1183]: Other

We will reclaim Britain's leading role in tackling climate change, working hard to preserve the Paris Agreement and deliver on international commitments to reduce emissions while mitigating the impacts of climate change on developing countries.

Commented [MOU1184]: TL (enviro)

While strengthening our commitment to the UN, we also acknowledge its shortcomings, particularly in light of repeated abuses of the veto power by some permanent members of the UN Security Council. We will work with our international partners to build support for UN reform and make its institutions more effective and responsive. We will appoint dedicated global ambassadors for women's rights, LGBT rights and religious freedom to fight discrimination and promote equality globally.

Commented [MOU1185]: SQP

Commented [MOU1186]: LI

Exports, trade and investment play a vital role in creating jobs and growth in Britain, and Labour supports the considerable contribution that a responsible, world-leading defence and security industry makes to the economy. However, we also believe that strong export controls have a vital role to play in sustaining a legitimate trade in arms, while protecting UK jobs and R&D. Labour will therefore implement the Arms Trade Treaty to a consistently high standard, including ceasing arms exports to countries where there is concern that they will be used to violate international humanitarian law (IHL).

Commented [MOU1187]:

Commented [MOU1188]: TL (arms)

In particular, Labour will demand a comprehensive, independent, UN-led investigation into alleged violations of IHL in Yemen, including air strikes on civilians by the Saudi-led coalition. We will immediately suspend any further arms sales for use in the conflict until that investigation is concluded.

Commented [MOU1189]: GP

Labour remains committed to an independent inquiry into Britain's military role in the 1984 raid on the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

## Defence

The primary duty of any government is to protect and defend its citizens. We live in a period of growing international tensions. A strong, viable and sustainable defence and security policy must be strategic and evidence led.

As previous incoming governments have done, a Labour government will order a complete strategic defence and security review when it comes into office, to assess the emerging threats facing Britain, including hybrid and cyber warfare. Cyber security will form an integral part of our defence and security strategy and we will introduce a cyber-security charter for companies working with the Ministry of Defence.

Commented [MOU1190]: GP

We will ensure that our armed forces are properly equipped and resourced to respond to wide-ranging security challenges. Labour will commit to effective UN peacekeeping, including support for a UN Emergency Peace Service.

Commented [MOU1191]: GP

Commented [MOU1192]: SQP

As the security threats and challenges we face are not bound by geographic borders, it is vital that as Britain leaves the EU, we maintain our close relationship with our European partners. Alongside our commitment to NATO, we will continue to work with the EU on a range of operational missions to promote and support global and regional security.

Commented [MOU1193]: RPEU

The last Labour government consistently spent above the NATO benchmark of 2 per cent of GDP. Conservative spending cuts have put Britain's security at risk, shrinking the army to its smallest size since the Napoleonic wars. The scrapping of Nimrod, HMS Ark Royal and the Harrier jump-jets have weakened our defences and cost British taxpayers millions.

Labour's commitment to spending at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence will guarantee that our Armed Forces have the necessary capabilities to fulfil the full range of obligations, and ensure our conventional forces are versatile and able to deploy in a range of roles.

Labour supports the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent. As a nuclear-armed power, our country has a responsibility to fulfil our obligations under the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty.

Commented [MOU1194]: GP

Labour will lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear-free world.

Commented [MOU1195]: TL (arms)

The UK defence industry is world-leading, and Labour will continue to support development and innovation in this sector and to ensure that it can continue to rely on a highly skilled workforce. We are committed to a procurement process that supports the British steel industry and defence manufacturing industry, which in turn provide good jobs throughout the supply chain. Labour will publish a Defence Industrial Strategy White Paper, including a National Shipbuilding Strategy to secure a long-term future for the industry, workers and UK defence.

We have a duty to properly reward and remunerate our Armed Forces. Under the Conservatives, our Armed Forces have been hit by rent rises, pay restraint, and changes to tax and benefits, putting real pressure on service personnel and their families. We will ensure they get the pay and living conditions that their service merits.

Dedicated service personnel are at the heart of our defence policy. Labour will immediately examine recruitment and retention policies in order to stem the exodus seen under the Conservatives. We will publish new strategic equality objectives to ensure our personnel reflect our diverse society.

We will drive up standards in Service Accommodation, and take action where private companies have failed to deliver. We will consult with service personnel, giving them greater autonomy over their housing choices, and review and improve the Forces Help to Buy scheme.

Personnel who are injured while serving should have prompt access to support and compensation. We will resist any Conservative proposals to abolish the right to seek legal redress against the MoD where compensation claims cannot be otherwise settled.

We are fully committed to supporting our veterans. We will promote greater awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant, seek greater consistency in its implementation by public authorities, and promote increased participation in the Corporate Covenant.

We will also roll out a Homes Fit for Heroes programme that will insulate the homes of disabled veterans for free.

## Development

Labour has a proud record on international development. We will continue to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on social development assistance, and develop a targeted development agenda based on the principles of redistribution, social justice, women's rights and poverty reduction.

Commented [MOU1196]: TL (dev)

Labour will take robust action to end the self-regulation of Department for International Development private contractors, establishing and enforcing new rules to ensure aid is used to reduce poverty for the many, not to increase profits for the few.

Commented [MOU1197]: TL (dev)

We fully support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed globally to eradicate poverty and protect the environment. Labour will develop a cross-government strategy for ensuring the SDGs are implemented, and report annually to Parliament on our performance.

Commented [MOU1198]: TL

In the wake of Brexit, to fulfil our national obligations under the SDGs, Labour will guarantee the least developed countries continued access to the UK market to protect vital export revenues.

Commented [MOU1199]: GTS

There are more refugees and displaced people around the world than at any time since the Second World War. This is a failure of diplomacy, conflict resolution and of human rights, which is why they will be at the heart of Labour's foreign policy.

Commented [MOU1200]: LI

The Conservatives have completely failed to show any leadership on this issue. In the first 100 days of government, we will produce a cross-departmental strategy to meet our international obligations on the refugee crisis.

Commented [MOU1201]: LI

The current global tax system is deeply unjust. Africa's economies alone lose more than £46 billion annually through corruption and tax evasion – more than 10 times what they receive in aid. Labour

will act decisively on tax havens, introducing strict standards of transparency for crown dependencies and overseas territories, including a public register of owners, directors, major shareholders and beneficial owners for all companies and trusts.

Commented [MOU1202]: TL (eco)

We will work in partnership with communities in the Global South to develop long-term strategies for strengthening economies and societies. We would reinstate the Civil Society Challenge Fund to support trade unions, women's associations and other civil society organisations which are the most effective forces in winning human rights and workers' rights.

Commented [MOU1203]: TL

Jobs in global supply chains can be of enormous importance to working people across the Global South, but human rights abuses and exploitation of lower environmental standards and workers' rights are too common. Labour is committed to ensuring respect for human rights, workers' rights and environmental sustainability in the operations of British businesses around the world, and we will work to tighten the rules governing corporate accountability for abuses in global supply chains.

Commented [MOU1204]: TL (eco)

Labour will work with business to ensure the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act are fully respected, including reporting on due diligence in supply chains. We will extend the remit of the Groceries Code Adjudicator beyond direct suppliers to ensure fair treatment for all those producing goods for the UK's largest supermarkets.

Commented [MOU1205]: TL (eco)

At least a billion people around the world cannot currently obtain the health services they need, and another 100 million are pushed below the poverty line as a result of paying for their services. We will establish a Centre for Universal Health Coverage, providing global partnerships, support and encouragement to countries that want UHC, helping them to generate the funding and systems required for its delivery.

Commented [MOU1206]: TL

We will invest in new public-health driven research and development to find effective and affordable treatments for diseases in the developing world, including fighting TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS and neglected tropical diseases.

Commented [MOU1207]: TL

### 1.1 Giving the people the final say

Liberal Democrats are open and outward-looking. We passionately believe that Britain’s relationship with its neighbours is stronger as part of the European Union. Whatever its imperfections, the EU remains the best framework for working effectively and co-operating in the pursuit of our shared aims. It has led directly to greater prosperity, increased trade, investment and jobs, better security and a greener environment. Britain is better off in the EU.

Commented [MOU1208]: Other

Commented [MOU1209]: RPEU

Commented [MOU1210]: RPEU

Liberal Democrats campaigned for the UK to remain in the EU. However, we acknowledge the result of the 2016 referendum, which gave the government a mandate to start negotiations to leave. The decision Britain took, though, was simply whether to remain in or to leave the European Union. There was no option on the ballot paper to choose the shape of our future relationship with the EU on vital issues including trade, travel or security.

Commented [MOU1211]: RPEU

While much remains uncertain about Theresa May’s approach, it is now clear that the Conservatives are campaigning for a hard Brexit. This means leaving the single market, ending freedom of movement and abandoning the customs union – even though these choices will make the UK poorer and disappoint many leave voters who wanted a different outcome.

Commented [MOU1212]: RPEU

The effects of Brexit are already being felt. The value of the pound has plummeted. Inflation has risen. Growth in the economy has slowed and the government is already borrowing billions more to fill the gap in lost tax revenue. Young people, who voted overwhelmingly to remain, are being told their voices do not matter. Urgent problems, such as the future of the NHS, are being neglected because of the sheer scale of the challenge posed by Brexit.

A hard Brexit will make all these problems worse. It is the wrong choice for the country. Liberal Democrats will fight to prevent a hard Brexit.

Commented [MOU1213]: RPEU

At the end of negotiations there will be a decision on the deal. The Conservatives want the decision to be taken by politicians. Liberal Democrats believe the British people should have the final say.

That's why, when the terms of our future relationship with the EU have been negotiated (over the next two years on the Government's timetable), we will put that deal to a vote of the British people in a referendum, with the alternative option of staying in the EU on the ballot paper. We continue to believe that there is no deal as good for the UK outside the EU as the one it already has as a member.

Commented [MOU1214]: RPEU

Every vote for the Liberal Democrats in this election is a vote to give the final say to the British people.

## 1.2 Fighting a hard Brexit

During negotiations, we commit ourselves to use our strength in parliament to press for keeping Britain as close as possible to Europe. Our priorities will include:

Commented [MOU1215]: RPEU

- Protection of rights for EU citizens and UK citizens: We will press for the UK to unilaterally guarantee the rights of EU nationals in the UK, ending their ongoing uncertainty. We will call for the overhaul and simplification of the registration process and the requirements for EU nationals to obtain permanent residence and UK citizenship, as the current system is not fit for purpose. We will urge the government, and use our influence with Liberal leaders in European countries, to secure the same rights for UK citizens living in European Union countries.
- Membership of the single market and customs union: We believe that any deal negotiated for the UK outside the EU must ensure that trade can continue without customs controls at the border, and must maintain membership of the single market, which smooths trade between the UK and the continent by providing a common 'rule book' for businesses and a common mechanism to ensure that everyone abides by the rules.
- Freedom of movement: We support the principle of freedom of movement – to abandon it would threaten Britain's prosperity and reputation as an open, tolerant society. Any deal negotiated for the UK outside the EU must protect the right to work, travel, study and retire

Commented [MOU1216]: RPEU

across the EU. Any restrictions sought by the government must take account of the vital importance of EU workers to the British economy, including public services.

Commented [MOU1217]: RPEU

- Opportunities for young people: In an increasingly globalised and complex world, it is vital that our young people are afforded the same opportunities their parents enjoyed to work, study and travel abroad. To that end we will do everything we can to protect Erasmus+ and other EU-funded schemes which increase opportunities for young people.

Commented [MOU1218]: RPEU

- Defending social rights and equalities: Many important protections such as the right to 52 weeks' maternity leave and rights to annual leave are currently based on EU law, and many of these rights have been upheld at the European Court of Justice. Liberal Democrats will fight to ensure that these entitlements are not undermined.

- Maintaining environmental standards: The European Union has created the highest environmental standards in the world. We have a duty to future generations to protect our environment and tackle climate change. Liberal Democrats will ensure that everything is done to maintain those high standards in UK law, including the closest possible co-operation on climate and energy policy.

Commented [MOU1219]: RPEU

- Law enforcement and judicial co-operation: Europol, the European Arrest Warrant and shared access to police databases have helped make Britain's streets safer. We will fight to maintain maximum co-operation to ensure criminals are pursued quickly and effectively, and police are not frustrated by huge amounts of red tape.

Commented [MOU1220]: RPEU

- British business and jobs: We must protect support for domestic industries such as farming, tourism and the creative industries, as well as regional support for deprived areas. The City of London is Europe's financial capital and must retain its full rights in EU financial markets.

Commented [MOU1221]: GLTS

- Science and research funding: Research is vital for our long-term prosperity, security and wellbeing – but the Leave vote has already started to affect existing and proposed research programmes. We will campaign against any reduction in investment in UK universities and for their right to apply for EU funds on equal terms.

- Travel and tourism: Britain is an outward-looking country with commercial and leisure interests around the world, particularly in Europe. We will strive to retain traveller and tourist benefits such as the European Health Insurance Card, reduced roaming charges and pet passports, all of which are at risk by leaving the European Union.

Commented [MOU1222]: Other



- Respect for the interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: We will fight to ensure that the priorities and long-term interests of the nations of the UK are fully taken into account during negotiations. We will oppose any moves that threaten the political stability of Northern Ireland. We will also campaign to protect the rights of the people of Gibraltar.

## Chapter 8: Make a Better World

Liberal Democrats are internationalists – we understand that by working together, people and countries can achieve so much more than they can alone.

Commented [MOU1223]: Other

It is a difficult time for people who believe in international co-operation. Liberals have been challenged by the vote to leave the EU, the election of increasingly nationalist and isolationist leaders across the globe, and a Conservative government seeking new trade deals with countries who are fundamentally opposed to our liberal values. With the election of Donald Trump and an increasingly assertive Russia, we must work to defend the international liberal order.

Commented [MOU1224]: SQP

The Liberal Democrat approach to Britain's place in the world is patriotic, optimistic and progressive. We will work with our European and other international partners to promote the ideals that bring us together and make us more secure – championing human rights, helping the poorest people in the world and protecting our country and our allies.

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Commented [MOU1226]: Other

Commented [MOU1227]: LI

Commented [MOU1228]: TL (dev)

Commented [MOU1229]: GP

Our priorities in the next parliament will be:

- Defending international co-operation against the rising tides of nationalism and isolationism, supporting multilateral organisations like the UN and NATO which are increasingly under threat.
- Spending 0.7% of gross national income on aid: reducing poverty, defending human rights, protecting the environment and preventing violent conflict worldwide.
- Controlling arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report and suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

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Commented [MOU1231]: SQP

Commented [MOU1232]: TL (dev)

Commented [MOU1233]: TL (arms)

### 8.1 Working for peace and security across the world

This is a challenging time for peace and security across the world. Terrorist organisations prosper, the conflict in Syria continues to present a significant problem to the region and the world, and rising tensions between Russia and the USA threaten a long-standing balance of power.

The UK has a proud record of playing a leading role in the European Union and in international institutions like the UN, NATO and the Commonwealth and should continue to do so, promoting wherever possible the liberal values of freedom and opportunity for all. We will:

Commented [MOU1234]: Other

Commented [MOU1235]: LI

- Champion the rules-based international order, which provides a strong basis for multilateral action to address the world's most pernicious problems, including poverty, armed conflict, disease, climate change and the abuse of human rights, including forced marriage, so-called 'honour' killings, and female genital mutilation.
- Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military co-operation – to strengthen UK efforts to prevent violent conflict.
- Work with our international partners to address the ongoing refugee crisis, which has seen more people displaced across the world than ever before.
- Support the UN principle of Responsibility to Protect, focusing on conflict prevention and only resorting to military intervention to prevent mass civilian atrocities if all other means of resolution have been fully exhausted.
- Improve control of arms exports by:
  - Implementing a policy of 'presumption of denial' for arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report.
  - Enforcing end-user certification on all future arms export licences with an annual report to parliament on this certification.
  - Creating a public register of arms brokers.

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Commented [MOU1237]: GP

Commented [MOU1238]: TL

Commented [MOU1239]: LI

Commented [MOU1240]: TL (arms)

Liberal Democrats believe that despite efforts to prevent violent conflict, sometimes military intervention is necessary. The UK should only intervene militarily when there is a clear legal and/or humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in parliament, working through international institutions whenever possible. We will encourage dialogue and mediation to reduce conflict between and within countries, working through the UN and other agencies.

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Commented [MOU1242]: SQP

Commented [MOU1243]: GP

Commented [MOU1244]: SQP

In response to current major conflicts worldwide, we will:

- Work with international partners to tackle violent extremism manifested by organisations like Daesh and Boko Haram, paying special attention to UK citizens who have fought

overseas for terrorist organisations and may become significant sources of terrorist activity if and when they return to Britain.

Commented [MOU1245]: GP

- Seek new ways to bring an end to the conflict in Syria, working within the UN to break the deadlock in the Security Council. We will work to deter the use of chemical and conventional attacks on civilians and demand humanitarian access and the release of political prisoners and their families.
- Remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which includes a two-state solution. We condemn disproportionate force used by all sides. We condemn Hamas' rocket attacks and other targeting of Israeli civilians. We condemn Israel's continued illegal policy of settlement expansion, which undermines the possibility of a two-state solution. We support recognition of the independent State of Palestine as and when it will help the prospect of a two-state solution.
- Suspend UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in response to their consistent targeting of civilians, in breach of international humanitarian law, in Yemen. We will work with international partners to recommence the peace process in Yemen.
- Promote democracy and stability in Ukraine and neighbouring countries against an increasingly aggressive Russia. We will work closely with European and other international partners to exert maximum economic and political pressure on Russia to stop interfering in the affairs of sovereign Eastern European nations, and will stand by our obligations under the NATO treaty in the event of threats to NATO member states.

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## 8.2 Our armed forces and security services

The UK must be able to defend itself and the territories for which it has responsibility, support its neighbours and allies, and engage in humanitarian intervention. The security challenges the UK faces are shared by our partners and allies in the EU and NATO and the UK is more effective and more resilient when we work closely with those partners. We will:

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- Commit to spending 2% of GDP on defence.
- Strengthen our armed services and address critical skills shortages by recruiting STEM graduates to be armed forces engineers, providing 'golden handshakes' of up to £10,000.
- Recognise the expansion of warfare into the cybersphere, by investing in our security and intelligence services and acting to counter cyberattacks.

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- Work to lead international nuclear disarmament efforts.
- Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. We propose continuing with the Dreadnought programme, the submarine-based replacement for Vanguard, but procuring three boats instead of four and moving to a medium-readiness responsive posture. This would mean replacing continuous at-sea deterrence— instead maintaining the deterrent through measures such as unpredictable and irregular patrolling patterns.
- Build on the framework for defence co-operation that is already well- established with France, the Netherlands, Germany and other European partners, and promote European defence integration where appropriate by enhancing European defence industry co-operation.

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Liberal Democrats recognise the vital role the UK’s armed forces play in the defence of the nation and believe that it is the role of government to safeguard the interests of service personnel and veterans. We will:

- Support the Armed Forces Covenant and ongoing work to support veterans’ mental health.
- Review the current Career Transition Partnership with a view to extending its remit to provide free further or higher education for anyone who has served in the armed forces for 12 years or more.
- Improve the quality of service housing by bringing the Ministry of Defence into line with other landlords, giving tenants the same legal rights to repair and maintenance as private tenants.

### 8.3 International development

Liberal Democrats have always been – and remain – strongly committed to ensuring justice and equity for poor people around the world. We believe that the UK must continue to play a leading role in ending poverty and promoting environmentally sustainable development, through implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will:

- Maintain our commitment to spend 0.7% of UK gross national income on overseas development assistance, in line with the OECD definition, which we legislated for in the last parliament.

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Commented [MOU1261]: TL (dev)

- Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support research and development into vaccinations and treatment to combat these and other deadly diseases and infections.
- Develop a global education strategy to address the urgent funding crisis causing 263 million children to miss out on schooling.
- Lead international action to ensure global companies pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, including tightening anti-tax haven rules and requiring large companies to publish their tax payments and profits for each country in which they operate.
- Continue building the resilience of poorer countries to resist future disasters, investing in healthcare and infrastructure and training emergency response volunteers, and respond generously to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur.
- Provide greater resources for international environmental co-operation, particularly on climate change and on actions to tackle illegal and unsustainable trade in timber, wildlife, ivory and fish.
- In light of the US government's dangerous and anti-science attacks on international programmes of vaccination and family planning, which impact disproportionately on the health of women and children, seek to protect global spending on these essential provisions.

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#### 8.4 Standing up for liberal values

Liberal Democrats believe that British foreign policy and international aid should seek to promote the liberal values of human rights and democracy throughout the world. We will:

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- Support free media and a free and open internet around the world, championing the free flow of information.
- Support the current UN initiative to protect journalists and to combat the impunity with which many countries treat those who attack reporters on the front line. To this end, we will provide ad hoc funding to UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication.
- Campaign strongly for the abolition of the death penalty around the world.

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- Champion global anti-corruption initiatives to safeguard global security and economic development and maintain a strong voice in international platforms on ending corruption. We will implement outstanding commitments made by the British government at the 2016 Global Anti-Corruption Summit.
- Publish a government anti-corruption strategy.
- Introduce Sustainable Development Goals audits of new trade, investment and development deals, reviewing the impact of the deal on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.
- Maintain funding for the BBC World Service, BBC Monitoring and the British Council.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world and advancing the cause of LGBT+ rights.
- Prioritise support, protection and equal rights for women and girls, which is both right and essential for effective, sustainable economic development. We will aim to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation.
- Appoint an ambassador-level champion for freedom of belief to drive British diplomatic efforts in this field, and campaign for the abolition of blasphemy, sedition, apostasy and criminal libel laws worldwide, having already been responsible for ending them in this country.

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Conservative 2019: “Get Brexit Done”

Chapter: Get Brexit Done

When the new Government entered Downing Street, the Prime Minister made a simple promise: to get Brexit done. Many said it would be impossible. But he swiftly negotiated a great new deal – despite Parliament’s best efforts to block his progress.

And then, when he put it to MPs, they insisted on yet more delay.

We must move on. No more renegotiations. No more referendums. Every week is costing us. Investment is waiting to come into the country. Families and businesses cannot make vital decisions. The public services cannot get the attention they deserve.

Our priority as Conservatives is to get Brexit done – so that we can unleash the potential of this great country. So that we can push past the obstacles that other parties have put in our country’s way. So that we can deliver on the people’s decision in 2016 and use our new post-Brexit freedoms to transform the UK for the better by focusing on your priorities.

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If we elect a majority of Conservative MPs to Parliament, we will start putting our deal through Parliament before Christmas and we will leave the European Union in January.

Boris Johnson’s new deal takes the whole country out of the EU as one United Kingdom. It takes us out of the customs union, allowing us to set our own tariffs and do our own trade deals. It allows us to pass our own laws and ensures that it is our courts that enforce them.

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Our deal is the only one on the table. It is signed, sealed and ready. It puts the whole country on a path to a new free trade agreement with the EU. This will be a new relationship based on free trade and friendly cooperation, not on the EU’s treaties or EU law. There will be no political alignment with the EU. We will keep the UK out of the single market, out of any form of customs union, and end the role of the European Court of Justice.

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This future relationship will be one that allows us to:

- Take back control of our laws.
- Take back control of our money.
- Control our own trade policy.
- Introduce an Australian-style points- based immigration system.
- Raise standards in areas like workers’ rights, animal welfare, agriculture and the environment.
- Ensure we are in full control of our fishing waters.

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We will negotiate a trade agreement next year – one that will strengthen our Union – and we will not extend the implementation period beyond December 2020. In parallel, we will legislate to ensure high standards of workers’ rights, environmental protection and consumer rights.

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The only way to deliver Brexit is with a Conservative majority in Parliament. A vote for any other party or candidate is a vote for Jeremy Corbyn – and a vote for more chaos.

Chapter: We Will Strengthen Britain In The World

As Conservatives, we are immensely proud of the UK's history and its standing in the world. Unlike those currently leading the Labour Party, we view our country as a force for good.

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The strength of the Armed Forces, our alliances with like-minded democracies and our willingness to act are all reasons for the UK to hold its head high.

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So too is our work in promoting international development and fighting climate change – both issues on which the Conservative Party and Conservative Governments have driven the agenda forward.

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And in an uncertain world, in which the threat of terrorism, rogue states and malign non-state actors is ever-present, it is vital that Britain stands up and is counted.

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Getting Brexit done will allow us to do more on the international stage. We will continue to be an outward-looking country that is a champion of collective security, the rule of law, human rights, free trade, anti-corruption efforts and a rules-based international system.

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After Brexit, we will bolster the alliances and institutions that help project our influence and keep us safe: the UN and the UN Security Council; NATO; the Commonwealth; Five Eyes; the G20; the G7; and the World Trade Organisation. We will open new markets and support free trade and global growth.

We will build on our fantastic track record of delivering major international sporting events – including supporting the upcoming Commonwealth Games, UEFA European Women's Championships and Rugby League World Cup – and we would back a potential UK and Ireland bid for the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

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As we extend our diplomatic network, we will reinvigorate relationships with Europe and seek to strengthen old and new partnerships across the world. We will work with our cultural institutions like the BBC and British Council to expand our influence and project our values. And unlike

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Jeremy Corbyn, we will stand up to foreign countries that threaten the stability of Europe, or commit state-sanctioned murder on British soil.

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### Put our national security first

The security of our nation comes first. We will protect the British people at home and abroad, and also ensure that the democratic rights of people in Gibraltar, the Falklands and all our overseas territories are protected.

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- We will continue to exceed the NATO target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence and increase the budget by at least 0.5 per cent above inflation every year of the new Parliament.
- We will modernise the equipment and improve the capability of our world-class Armed Forces and intelligence agencies.
- We will invest in training and equipping our Armed Forces, and constantly champion their exemplary contribution to our security and our country.
- We will maintain our Trident nuclear deterrent, which guarantees our security.
- We will adapt to new threats, investing more in cybersecurity and setting up the UK's first Space Command.
- We will stand against terrorism and extremism around the world.
- We will support the UK's world-class defence industry by investing in ambitious global programmes, including building the new Type 31 frigates in British shipyards such as Rosyth and a new generation of armoured vehicles, made in Britain.

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### Promote our values

From helping to end the slave trade to tackling modern slavery, the UK has long been a beacon of freedom and human rights – and will continue to be so. We are proud of our peace-building and humanitarian efforts around the world, particularly in war-torn or divided societies, and of our record in helping to reduce global poverty. We will continue to support international initiatives to achieve reconciliation, stability and justice across the world, and in current or former conflict zones such as Cyprus, Sri Lanka and the Middle East, where we maintain our support for a two-state solution.

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Once we leave the EU, we will champion these values even more strongly.

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- We will further develop an independent Magnitsky-style sanctions regime to tackle human rights abusers head on.
- We will stand up for the right of every girl in the world to have 12 years of quality education.
- We will continue our campaigns to promote international media freedom and to eradicate human trafficking and the scourge of modern slavery.
- We will support marginalised communities in the developing world, hosting the UK government's first ever international LGBT conference. We will seek to protect those persecuted for their faith and implement the Truro Review recommendations.
- We will proudly maintain our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI on development, and do more to help countries receiving aid become self-sufficient.
- Building on this Government's existing efforts, we will end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030, and lead the way in eradicating Ebola and malaria.
- We will support the construction of the planned UK Holocaust Memorial.

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### **Fight climate change and protect the environment**

Conservation is, and always has been, at the heart of Conservatism. Our Government's stewardship of the natural environment, its focus on protecting the countryside and reducing plastic waste, is a source of immense pride.

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But today, the climate emergency means that the challenges we face stretch far beyond our borders.

Thanks to the efforts of successive Governments, the UK has cut carbon emissions by more than any similar developed country. We are now the world's leader in offshore wind – a fantastic success story of Government and the private sector working hand in hand to cut costs and deliver ever more electricity at plummeting costs.

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Unlike Jeremy Corbyn, we believe that free markets, innovation and prosperity can protect the planet.

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Yet we recognise that there is far more that needs to be done.

- We will lead the global fight against climate change by delivering on our world-leading target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as advised by the independent Committee on Climate Change. We have doubled International Climate Finance. And we will use our position hosting the UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in 2020 to ask our global partners to match our ambition.
- We will set up new international partnerships to tackle deforestation and protect vital landscapes and wildlife corridors. We will establish a new £500 million Blue Planet Fund to help protect our oceans from plastic pollution, warming sea temperatures and overfishing, and extend the Blue Belt programme to preserve the maritime environment. We will continue to lead diplomatic efforts to protect 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030.

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Our first Budget will prioritise the environment: investing in R&D; decarbonisation schemes; new flood defences, which will receive £4 billion in new funding over the coming years; electric vehicle infrastructure including a national plug-in network and gigafactory; and clean energy.

In the next decade, we will work with the market to deliver two million new high quality jobs in clean growth. We have ambitious targets:

Our world-leading offshore wind industry will reach 40GW by 2030, and we will enable new floating wind farms.

- We will invest £800 million to build the first fully deployed carbon capture storage cluster by the mid-2020s.
- We will invest £500 million to help energy-intensive industries move to low-carbon techniques.

- We will support gas for hydrogen production and nuclear energy, including fusion, as important parts of the energy system, alongside increasing our commitment to renewables.
- We placed a moratorium on fracking in England with immediate effect. Having listened to local communities, we have ruled out changes to the planning system. We will not support fracking unless the science shows categorically that it can be done safely.
- We will help lower energy bills by investing £9.2 billion in the energy efficiency of homes, schools and hospitals.
- We will support clean transport to ensure clean air, as well as setting strict new laws on air quality. We will consult on the earliest date by which we can phase out the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars.

### **Increase trade and prosperity**

For the first time in nearly half a century, the UK will have its own independent trade policy once we leave the EU.

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Free trade has been proven time and again to be the best way to increase exports, cut prices for consumers, increase investment and create jobs right here in the UK. We believe we can use this historic opportunity to connect the UK to the world's fastest-growing nations, create new export opportunities and enrich ourselves and our trading partners.

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As part of the EU, we were forced into accepting trade deals that put their priorities first. Now, we will be able to tailor our trade deals to the needs of British firms and the British economy.

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Our trade deals will not only be free but fair – in particular towards the developing nations whose economies could be transformed by access to the UK's markets and expertise. We can, for example, include provisions in our new free trade agreements that promote the fair treatment of workers and advance women's empowerment.

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Our goals for British trade are accordingly ambitious. We aim to have 80 per cent of UK trade covered by free trade agreements within the next three years, starting with the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. These will be negotiated in parallel with our EU deal.

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We will also forge stronger links with the Commonwealth, which boasts some of the world's most dynamic economies such as India, with which we already share deep historical and cultural connections. We will use export finance to increase our businesses' access to emerging markets and engage diaspora communities in the UK with this agenda.

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The UK is a world leader in many areas such as architecture, engineering, accountancy, information technology, digital services, law and the creative arts. Just as we led the way in opening up trade in manufactured goods in the last two centuries, we should open up trade in services, in which the majority of us work and where most new jobs will be created.

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Commented [MOU1335]: GLTS

As part of our commitment to making the most of the opportunities of Brexit, and levelling up the nation, we will create up to ten freeports around the UK, benefiting some of our most deprived communities. We will also redouble our efforts to promote British business and UK exports and dismantle barriers to trade and retake our seat at the World Trade Organisation.

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In our trade talks, we will follow the following principles:

- We will seek to provide security to the British people in a world of heightened trade tensions and tariffs.
- We will seek to gain market access for British businesses and lower the cost of trade for them.
- We will drive a hard bargain with all of our trading partners – and, as with all negotiations, we will be prepared to walk away if that is in the national interest.
- We will defend British industries from dumping and other anti-competitive practices from overseas.
- In all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards.
- The NHS is not on the table. The price the NHS pays for drugs is not on the table. The services the NHS provides are not on the table.

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Labour 2019: “It’s Time for Real Change

Chapter: The Final Say on Brexit

**The Final Say on Brexit**

Labour will give the people the final say on Brexit. Within three months of coming to power, a Labour government will secure a sensible deal. And within six months, we will put that deal to a public vote alongside the option to remain. A Labour government will implement whatever the people decide.

Only a Labour government will put this decision in the hands of the people to give you the final say. This will be a legally binding referendum and we will implement the people’s decision immediately.

The Tories have failed for three years to get Brexit sorted, in a shambles of repeated delays and uncertainty. Whether people voted Leave or Remain in 2016, people and businesses are crying out for politicians in Westminster to finally focus on the wider challenges we face.

Labour rules out a no-deal Brexit, and we will end the scandal of billions of pounds of taxpayers’ money being wasted on no-deal preparations. No deal has never been a viable option. It would do enormous harm to jobs, rights, security and to our NHS.

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Labour has led the campaign to stop a no-deal Brexit. A majority Tory government would pose a renewed threat of the UK crashing out with no deal. Only a Labour government can prevent this.

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We will rip up the deeply flawed deal negotiated by Boris Johnson. We opposed his deal precisely because it would do such harm to workers’ rights, environmental protections and to our manufacturing industry.

Boris Johnson’s deal is even worse than Theresa May’s: it would leave the UK £70 billion worse off by 2029; it would give the green light to deregulation undermining UK manufacturing; and it

would leave our NHS at the mercy of a trade deal with Donald Trump. This sell-out deal is unacceptable to Labour.

Labour will secure a new Brexit deal– one that protects jobs, rights and the environment, avoids a hard border in Northern Ireland and protects the Good Friday Agreement and the peace process.

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We will also ensure that there is no change in the status or sovereignty of Gibraltar.

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Our deal will be based on the principles we have set out over the last two years.

It will include:

- A permanent and comprehensive UK-wide customs union, which is vital to protect our manufacturing industry and allows the UK to benefit from joint UK-EU trade deals, and is backed by businesses and trade unions.
- Close alignment with the Single Market – ensuring we have a strong future economic relationship with the EU that can support UK businesses.
- Dynamic alignment on workers’ rights, consumer rights and environmental protections so that UK standards keep pace across Europe as a minimum, allowing the UK to lead the way, not fall behind.
- Continued participation in EU agencies and funding programmes, including in such vital areas of co-operation as the environment, scientific research and culture.
- Clear commitments on future security arrangements, including access to the European Arrest Warrant and shared databases, making people safer at home and abroad.
- Labour will secure a revised Withdrawal Agreement that provides legal protection for citizens’ rights, meets our international obligations – particularly with regard to the Good Friday Agreement – and ensures an appropriate transition period to allow businesses and citizens to adapt to any new arrangements.

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We will also secure robust and legally binding protections for workers’ rights, consumer standards and environmental protections, and ensure level-playing- field protections are maintained. Labour will never accept an outcome that puts rights and standards at risk.

Once we have secured this new deal we will put it to a legally binding referendum alongside the option of remaining in the EU.

This will take place within the first six months of a Labour government.

Labour is the only party that can heal the harmful divisions in our communities and address the devastation caused by 10 years of austerity, ruthlessly imposed on society by the Tories and Lib Dems. While other parties have exacerbated polarisation, defining everyone by how they voted in the 2016 EU Referendum, Labour has consistently reached across this divide.

Only Labour will deliver a final say referendum.

Only Labour will offer the choice of remaining in the EU, or leaving with a sensible deal.

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This final say referendum will not be a re-run of 2016. It will be legally binding. Labour will implement the decision of the British people immediately.

Labour will introduce legislation to facilitate this referendum and to provide legal certainty and stability following the result.

We will introduce a Withdrawal Agreement and Referendum Bill, providing the legal basis to conduct and implement the outcome of the referendum.

We will scrap the Brexit legislation currently proposed by the Tories and introduce new legislation that is in line with Labour's priorities and principles to protect our economy, trade, jobs and rights.

This will include new legislation to ensure support and certainty for UK farmers, our fishing industry and protection for our natural environment.

Labour recognises the huge benefits of immigration to our country. Many British citizens have benefited from freedom of movement, which has given them the opportunity to study, work or retire abroad. Likewise our public services and our industry have benefited from skilled workers coming here.

Labour believes that citizens' rights should never have been used as a bargaining chip in the Brexit negotiations, and recognises the huge anxiety this has caused for the three million EU nationals living in the UK and the 1.2 million UK nationals who have made their home elsewhere in the EU.

We will end the uncertainty created by the EU Settlement Scheme by granting EU nationals the automatic right to continue living and working in the UK. This new declaratory system will allow EU nationals the chance to register for proof of status if they wish, but will mean they no longer have to apply to continue living and working in this country. This will help ensure reciprocal treatment for UK citizens living in the EU. It will also prevent a repeat of the shameful Windrush scandal and avoid unnecessarily criminalising hundreds of thousands of EU nationals.

If in a referendum the British people decide to remain in the EU, this must not mean accepting the status quo. Labour will work with partners across Europe to make the case for radical reform of the EU – in particular to ensure that its collective strength is focused on tackling the climate emergency, tax evasion and ending austerity and inequality.

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The EU needs a new political direction and, if the people decide the UK should remain in the EU, Labour will lead the way to ensure that change.

Commented [MOU1351]: RPEU

For too long a politically inflicted wave of austerity has damaged communities across Britain and across Europe. The most vulnerable members in our society have suffered, while the super-rich continue to be rewarded by a system that allows them to thrive at the expense of the many.

This must change. If the country decides to remain, a Labour government will take a different approach and strive to ensure that the EU works for people across our communities. The EU should focus on policies that value investment, protect public services and make those who have the most pay their fair share.

Commented [MOU1352]: RPEU (scep)

If people decide to leave, a Labour government will work constructively with the EU on vital issues of mutual interest and to the mutual benefit of the UK and EU. But we will leave the EU.

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Most importantly, under a Labour government, you will get the final say on Brexit.

## Chapter: A New Internationalism

### A New Internationalism

Labour will put human rights, international law and tackling climate change at the heart of our international policies, and use our global influence to end the ‘bomb first, talk later’ approach to security. Labour will always do what is needed to protect the security of people in the UK.

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International peace and security will be a primary objective of a Labour government’s foreign policy. Britain deserves better than the Conservatives’ reckless approach to complex global challenges or the outsourcing of UK foreign policy to US President Donald Trump.

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Failed military interventions in countries like Libya have worsened security across North Africa, accelerating the refugee crisis.

Our approach will be based on our values. Within the first year of government Labour will:

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- Introduce a War Powers Act to ensure that no prime minister can bypass Parliament to commit to conventional military action. Unlike the Conservatives, we will implement every single recommendation of the Chilcot Inquiry.
- Conduct an audit of the impact of Britain’s colonial legacy to understand our contribution to the dynamics of violence and insecurity across regions previously under British colonial rule.
- Invest an additional £400 million in our diplomatic capacity to secure Britain’s role as a country that promotes peace, delivers ambitious global climate agreements and works through international organisations to secure political settlements to critical issues.

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Commented [MOU1363]: Other

### Effective Diplomacy

Internationalism is at the core of the Labour movement. We recognise our responsibility to confront injustices we see today and to correct the injustices of the past.

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We will:

- Establish a judge-led inquiry into our country's alleged complicity in rendition and torture, and the operation of secret courts.
- Issue a formal apology for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and hold a public review into Britain's role in the Amritsar massacre.
- Allow the people of the Chagos Islands and their descendants the right to return to the lands from which they should never have been removed.
- Uphold the human rights of the people of West Papua and recognise the rights of the people of Western Sahara.

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Commented [MOU1366]: LI

We have a duty to stand up for the security and sovereignty of our overseas territories, including the Falklands, and for the rights of our citizens and dual-nationals abroad, and will continue fighting for justice on behalf of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and other British nationals wrongly imprisoned or suffering mistreatment in captivity abroad.

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Commented [MOU1368]: LI

## Human Rights

Human rights and international humanitarian law are fundamental pillars of a secure global system.

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These principles are under threat. Some of the world's most powerful states choose to sell arms to human-rights abusing states. Conservative ministers, including Boris Johnson, have signed off well over £2 billion of arms sales to repressive regimes since June 2017.

Around the world, human rights defenders and civil society activists remain vulnerable to attacks, often carried out with impunity.

We will:

- Immediately suspend the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen and to Israel for arms used in violation of the human rights of Palestinian civilians, and conduct a root-and-branch reform of our arms exports regime so ministers can never again turn a blind eye to British-made weapons being used to target innocent civilians.
- Reform the international rules-based order to secure justice and accountability for breaches of human rights and international law, such as the bombing of hospitals in Syria, the illegal

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blockade of the Gaza Strip, the use of rape as a weapon of war against the Rohingya community in Myanmar and the indiscriminate bombardment of civilians in Yemen.

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- We will work through the UN and the Commonwealth to insist on the protection of human rights for Sri Lanka's minority Tamil and Muslim populations.
- Appoint human-rights advisers to work across the Foreign Office and government to prioritise a co-ordinated approach to human rights.
- Advocate for human rights at every bilateral diplomatic meeting.

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### Climate Diplomacy

There is no greater injustice today than countries in the Global South paying the price for a climate crisis they did not cause. Yet some world leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, champion a climate-change denial agenda.

Britain's climate-change diplomacy was respected internationally, playing an important role in securing the Paris Agreement, following the leading role the UK played in securing the Kyoto Agreement. However, Boris Johnson – who has described global warming as a 'primitive fear... without foundation' – has overseen a 60% cut in the UK's global network of climate experts.

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Only Labour can rebuild Britain's leadership on the most serious threat to our shared humanity.

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We will:

- Rebuild our climate expertise within the Foreign Office, putting climate diplomacy at the heart of our foreign policy.
- Use our influence at the UN, EU, G7, G20, World Bank, the Commonwealth and other global institutions to promote policies to tackle the climate emergency.
- Use our diplomatic expertise to negotiate and deliver more ambitious global targets to deal with the climate emergency, starting with COP 26 in Glasgow next year.

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### Prioritising Conflict Prevention and Building Peace

The Conservatives have failed to play a constructive role in resolving the world's most pressing humanitarian crises, including in Kashmir, Yemen and Myanmar, and the escalation of tensions



with Iran. The treatment of the Kurdish people in Syria, including by Turkey, and of the Uighurs in China has been met with total inaction and apathy by the current UK government. In some cases, they set aside regard for international law, including refusing to criticise Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman of Saudi Arabia over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Labour is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a two- state solution – a secure Israel alongside a secure and viable state of Palestine. There can be no military solution to this conflict, which must be settled on the basis of justice and international law. All sides must avoid taking action that would make peace harder to achieve. That means both an end to the blockade, occupation and settlements, and an end to rocket and terror attacks. Labour will continue to press for an immediate return to meaningful negotiations leading to a diplomatic resolution. A Labour government will immediately recognise the state of Palestine.

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Labour will take all lawful action necessary to counter and confront all forms of terrorism, and we will advocate a long-term multinational political strategy, led by regional actors, to tackle the spread of extremism.

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We believe effective diplomacy can address the drivers of conflict and insecurity.

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We will:

- Build support for UN reform, including assessing and developing democratisation initiatives, and improving the engagement of the General Assembly in decision-making to ensure its institutions are more effective at achieving peace.
- Prioritise our responsibility to prevent conflict by investing in local capacities for peacebuilding in areas of conflict– advocating for political, multilateral strategies for peace.
- Act immediately to urge negotiations towards a political resolution to conflict wherever it arises, including in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

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## Defence and Security

The primary duty of government is to guarantee the security of people in the UK. Labour's defence policy will be strategic and evidence-led. Our security at home is made stronger when the security of others elsewhere is guaranteed too.

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An incoming Labour government will undertake a Strategic Defence and Security Review to assess the security challenges facing Britain, including new forms of hybrid, cyber and remote warfare.

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This review will also take account of the climate emergency, and associated threats of resource competition, involuntary migration and violent conflict.

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Under the Conservatives:

- Boris Johnson refuses to publish the report into possible foreign interference by Russia in UK democracy.
- Trained army personnel have been cut from 102,000 to just over 74,000.
- Armed forces and their families have been forced to live in sub-standard accommodation.
- Failing outsourced contracts have not been terminated.
- Our Armed Forces personnel received below-inflation pay rises for seven years.

The security challenges we face know no borders. Labour will increase funding for UN peacekeeping operations to £100 million. We will maintain our commitment to NATO and our close relationship with our European partners, and we will use our influence at the United Nations to support peace and security worldwide.

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Labour supports the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent. Labour will also actively lead multilateral efforts under our obligations to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to create a nuclear-free world.

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Labour's commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence will guarantee that our armed forces are versatile and capable of fulfilling the full range of roles and obligations.

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We will scrap the public sector pay cap, which resulted in a real-terms pay cut for our armed forces, ensure decent housing for forces members and their families, and guarantee better access for all

forces children to good quality local schools. We will consult on creating a representative body for the armed forces, akin to the Police Federation.

Labour will improve opportunities for veterans through access to lifelong learning and training, housing and mental and physical health services, and will seek greater consistency in the implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant by public authorities.

We will pay a lump sum of £50,000 to each surviving British nuclear-test veteran to support them and their families with the health conditions they have suffered as a result of exposure to radiation. We will also ensure that black and Asian soldiers who fought in Britain's colonial armies receive a full apology and explore ways to compensate them for the discriminatory demob payments they received compared to their white counterparts serving at the same rank in the same regiments.

The UK defence industry is world-leading and Labour will continue to work with manufacturers, unions and export partners in line with Labour's foreign policy to support innovation in this sector to ensure it maintains its highly skilled workforce and world-class apprenticeship programme. We are committed to procurement that supports UK defence manufacturing including our aerospace and shipbuilding, alongside a vibrant supply chain that includes the British steel industry and other component manufacturing companies providing good jobs throughout supply chains. Labour will publish a Defence Industrial Strategy White Paper, including a National Shipbuilding Strategy, that keeps all Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary shipbuilding contracts in the UK, to secure a long-term future for the industry and its workers.

Reducing our carbon footprint can only happen with ambitious emissions reduction targets at the Ministry of Defence, one of government's biggest energy users. So as part of our Green Industrial Revolution, we will create a Climate Change Sustainability Committee within the department to review the feasibility of increasing the use of sustainable energy in defence, and publish a strategy to accelerate the safe and sustainable recycling of our old nuclear submarines.

### **International Solidarity and Justice**

The scale of the challenges facing our world are enormous. Conflict, climate change and a global economy rigged in favour of a tiny elite are driving instability and inequality across the world. A bold international development policy driven by social justice has never been more needed.

Labour will use Britain's influence within the World Bank, IMF and WTO to transform the rules of the global economy so they work for the many.

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We recognise the need to address historic injustices and will reset our relationships with countries in the Global South based on principles of redistribution and equality, not outdated notions of charity or imperialist rule. Unlike the Conservatives, Labour is fully committed to a standalone Department for International Development (DfID), with an aid budget of at least 0.7% of gross national income. We will introduce the reduction of inequality as a goal for all aid spending alongside existing poverty reduction and gender equality goals.

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For the Conservatives, too often humanitarian aid is undermined by their disastrous foreign policy, as in Yemen. Under Labour, we will ensure policy coherence across our international-facing departments. Under Labour, DfID will continue to respond to the world's biggest crises and will ensure humanitarian aid is provided according to need, not whether the UK has commercial or other interests in the country. DfID will assume a strong position in cross-government decision making, including a permanent seat on the Export Control Joint Unit responsible for licensing arms exports.

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Our international programme will be based on human rights and gender equality.

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We will:

- Uphold basic rights to education, health and clean water by establishing a new Unit for Public Services within DfID, which will include increasing direct budgetary support to governments so they can build sustainable services for their citizens.
- Promote fairer international tax rules and help countries in the Global South build progressive tax systems to finance essential public services.

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- Support trade unions internationally in their efforts to promote collective bargaining for better pay and conditions, and include binding social chapters in trade agreements to safeguard workers' rights.
- Support ongoing UN efforts to introduce a binding international treaty on business and human rights, and make companies legally accountable for failing to prevent human rights abuses or environmental damage in their operations and supply chains, including criminal liability in the most serious cases.
- Implement a gender transformative approach across all our international work, including tripling funding for grassroots women's organisations and establishing an independent ombudsman to tackle abuse in the development sector.

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Labour believes in climate justice. Wealthy countries like the UK bear the greatest responsibility for the climate emergency. Countries in the Global South that have done the least to cause climate change are already facing the worst impacts, such as rising sea levels, more frequent hurricanes and greater food insecurity. We have a duty to right this wrong.

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We will:

- Provide a top-up of new and additional spending on international climate finance to bring the total to £4 billion a year, and also support international calls for compensation to those nations already suffering loss and damage.
- Stop all aid spending on fossil fuel production overseas, redirecting it towards clean, renewable energy for all.
- End all UK Export Finance support to fossil fuel projects, and reject any trade deals that conflict with our climate principles.
- Undertake a root-and-branch reform of CDC Group plc (DfID's principal vehicle for encouraging private sector investment in developing countries), transforming it into a green development bank mandated to fight poverty, inequality and climate change.

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Labour respects the crucial role played by small-scale farmers the world over in guaranteeing people the right to food.

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We will:

- Establish an aid-funded Food Sovereignty Fund to enable small-scale farmers in the Global South to gain access to land, seeds and finance, and uphold indigenous peoples' right to land.
- Support sustainable local food and agriculture markets in the fight against climate change.

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Labour believes human rights should drive our trade policy. We will:

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- Implement UK arms export controls to the highest standard, putting an end to exports where they might be used in violation of human rights or international humanitarian law.
- Ensure government procurement contracts are not granted to companies that are complicit in serious human rights abuses, and require all UK trade agreements to be consistent with international humanitarian law.
- Introduce legislation to ensure transparency and parliamentary scrutiny of trade and investment agreements.
- Reject any trade agreements that undermine labour standards or environmental protections, and rule out UK Export Finance support to companies engaged in bribery or corruption.

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Labour recognises the right to essential medicines as an integral part of the right to health.

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We will:

- Promote fairer international patent regimes that do not prevent countries from accessing essential medicines and support efforts to increase the transparency of medicines pricing so governments can negotiate fair prices.
- In the long term, ensure that all medicines developed with the support of UK taxpayer money are accessible to people in the Global South.

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Liberal Democrats 2019: “Stop Brexit”

Chapter: Stop Brexit

Every vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote to stop Brexit and stay in the European Union.

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For over three years Liberal Democrats have led the fight to stop Brexit. We campaigned to stay in the EU in 2016 and we unequivocally believe that the UK is stronger as part of the EU.

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The election of a Liberal Democrat majority government on a clear stop Brexit platform will provide a democratic mandate to stop this mess, revoke Article 50 and stay in the EU. In other circumstances, we will continue to fight for a people’s vote with the option to stay in the EU, and in that vote we would passionately campaign to keep the UK in the EU.

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Electing a Liberal Democrat government is the only way to get the Brexit process over. Although the Conservatives claim that a vote for them will ‘get Brexit done’, it won’t: it will simply usher in more years of difficult negotiations over the UK’s trade deal with the EU, with a very high chance of Britain crashing out and trying to survive on so-called ‘WTO terms’ – a deal so bad that almost no other country anywhere in the world trades on that basis.

Labour want to reopen the Withdrawal Agreement all over again and negotiate a new deal – but they will not say whether they want Britain to remain in the EU or leave. The fact is that whether Labour Red or Tory Blue, Brexit is bad for the UK.

The importance of the UK’s membership of the EU has never been clearer. Working together through the EU, the countries of Europe have achieved peace and prosperity on a continent historically wracked by war and division. That is a tremendous achievement; it should not be taken for granted, particularly as Europe faces new dangers from an increasingly aggressive Russia and as the US turns away from its old alliances.

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Many of the great challenges of the 21st century are global: climate change, human trafficking, the arms trade, the power of multinationals, global poverty and inequality. By separating itself from the EU, Britain diminishes its capacity to respond to these threats. By working together with our European neighbours, we increase the UK's ability to meet those challenges: for example, in international negotiations, in regulating the tech giants or in creating markets for climate-friendly products.

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There is no doubt that full membership of the EU is good for the British economy. Brexit would bring to an end businesses' unfettered access to the European single market – the destination of almost half of Britain's exports – and to the smooth flow of goods that complex industrial supply chains require. The prospect of tariffs and border checks is already causing manufacturers to shift their operations to other EU states and UK manufacturers are already reporting that export orders have dried up.

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There is no prospect of replacing lost EU markets with free trade agreements with other countries thousands of miles away. If the UK gives in to President Trump's demands to lower environmental and health standards for a trade deal with the US, we would lose the ability to export to the EU, which would drive many British businesses, including most farmers, out of business. Brexit is bad for jobs, growth and prosperity.

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Brexit will also mean an end to freedom of movement, which has brought the UK tremendous social, economic and cultural benefits. It gives British people the opportunity to work, be together with their loved ones, study and retire anywhere in the EU. There is no contradiction between our European and our British, national and regional identities: they enrich one another. By stopping Brexit, Liberal Democrats will protect and maintain freedom of movement, safeguarding the rights of UK citizens living elsewhere in the EU and EU citizens in the UK. Liberal Democrats will also support the right of the people of Gibraltar to remain in the European Union.

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EU citizens are valued members of our communities and we believe that they should be afforded the right to full participation in civic life, including the ability to stand for office and vote in UK referendums, European elections and general elections as well as local elections. Liberal



Democrats will extend these rights to all EU citizens who have lived in the UK for five years or longer.

To ensure that EU citizens are not denied their vote in any election or referendum, we will also implement urgent electoral law reform, in line with the Electoral Commission's 2014 recommendations, including introducing a legal requirement for councils to inform citizens of the steps they must take to be successfully registered and making the necessary changes to ensure that the UK has an automatic system of inclusion in elections.

The national humiliation of Brexit puts so much at risk – the NHS, public services, jobs across the country, scientific collaboration, peace in Northern Ireland, the unity of the UK, our ability to tackle global crises such as climate change and our global reputation as a country that is confident and outward-facing. By keeping the UK in the EU, we can get on with tackling the real issues facing our country, using the Remain Bonus of £50 billion to invest in public services and tackle inequality.

A Liberal Democrat government will stop Brexit – and build a brighter future for the UK by keeping us at the heart of the European Union.

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## Chapter: Our Plan for a Better World

The world today feels increasingly unstable and unsafe. Nationalism and authoritarianism are on the rise in countries across the globe. President Trump has repeatedly acted to cause instability, whether by initiating trade wars or abandoning Kurdish allies in Syria; Putin's Russia is persistently threatening the international rules-based order; and tensions continue to rise across the world – a brutal war still rages in Yemen, relationships with Iran are increasingly difficult and citizens are protesting against their leaders in places such as Hong Kong, Pakistan and Chile. The UK should be playing a leading role as part of a coalition of liberal democracies to respond to these challenges, but Brexit has already undermined our ability to shape world events.

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Both the Conservatives and Labour would pursue a mistaken and backwards-looking approach to foreign affairs that would further undermine the UK's position in the world. The Conservatives base their plans on an invented past, blind to the realities of Empire, and Boris Johnson has shown, with his comments about Nazanin Zaghari-Radcliffe, that he cannot be trusted to protect British citizens; the Labour leadership, wedded to an anti-Western obsession that makes them persistent apologists for an increasingly aggressive Russian government, likewise cannot be trusted to protect the UK's interests.

Only the Liberal Democrats have a plan to renew international liberalism in Britain and ensure that the UK plays an active role in building a better world. A plan that will tear down walls, not build them; a plan that will champion the values of human rights, democracy, and equality; a plan that means working through multilateral organisations such as the EU, UN, NATO, and the WTO, rather than undermining or leaving them entirely. By clearly committing to these multilateral organisations, we can tackle our shared challenges, live up to our values internationally and shape international events in the interests of the UK.

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Our priorities in the next parliament will be:

- Defending international cooperation against the rising tides of nationalism and isolationism, supporting multilateral organisations like the UN and NATO which are increasingly under threat.

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- Spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on aid: reducing poverty, defending human rights, protecting the environment and preventing violent conflict worldwide.
- Cooperating with the UK's European and global partners in tackling the climate and environmental emergencies.
- Controlling arms exports to countries with poor human rights records and, as part of this, suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

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### A Peaceful World

Liberalism and cooperation have a vital role to play in securing peace, promoting democracy and defending human rights across the world. But the rules-based international order that has governed international relations for the past 70 years is under threat. The Liberal Democrats are the only party that is looking forward: neither the Conservatives nor Labour have a convincing vision of the UK's role in the world. We will build on the UK's proud record of international leadership through the EU, UN, NATO and the Commonwealth by promoting values of freedom and opportunity for all. It has never been more important for the UK to work with allies as a champion of this message. We will:

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- Champion the liberal, rules-based international order, which provides a strong basis for multilateral action to address the world's biggest problems.
- Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military cooperation – to strengthen UK efforts to prevent violent conflict.
- Increase overseas financial support for the ongoing refugee crisis, focussing on countries that have accepted millions of refugees.
- Work with European partners to introduce a European Magnitsky Act that would enable sanctions against corrupt individuals and perpetrators of human rights abuses.
- Improve control of arms exports, including by introducing a policy of 'presumption of denial' for arms exports to countries listed as Human Rights Priority Countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report.

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Liberal Democrats believe that despite efforts to prevent violent conflict, sometimes military intervention is necessary. The UK should only intervene militarily when there is a clear legal or

humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in parliament – working through international institutions whenever possible. We will encourage dialogue and mediation to reduce conflict between and within countries, working through the UN and other agencies. In response to current crises, we will:

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- Legislate to ensure there is a parliamentary vote before engaging in military action, while preserving the ability to engage in action in emergencies or under treaty obligation without requiring parliamentary approval.
- Focus on the diplomatic priorities of the UN’s Responsibility to Protect doctrine and establish new tests to ensure that any UK action has regional support, a reasonable prospect of defined success, and a sound legal and humanitarian case.
- Work with international partners to tackle violent extremism, paying special attention to UK citizens who have fought overseas for terrorist organisations who may become significant sources of terrorist activity if they return to Britain.
- On Syria, cooperate internationally to stabilise the region and provide humanitarian assistance.
- Work with the EU to revive the Iran nuclear deal.
- Officially recognise the independent state of Palestine, condemn violence on all sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and support Israel’s right to security. We remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement, which includes a two-state solution.
- Suspend UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in response to their consistent targeting of civilians, in breach of international humanitarian law, in Yemen.
- Promote democracy and stability in Ukraine and neighbouring countries against an increasingly aggressive Russia, by working closely with the EU and international partners to exert maximum economic and political pressure, and standing by our NATO treaty obligations.
- Honour our legal and moral duty to the people of Hong Kong by reopening the British National Overseas Passport offer, extending the scheme to provide the right to abode to all holders.

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## A Secure Defence in the 21st Century

The Armed Forces play a vital role in the defence of the nation: government should have a deep sense of duty to properly support service personnel and veterans. Neither the Conservatives nor Labour have shown a commitment to this: the Conservative government in particular has spread chronic low morale, misspent money on vanity projects and failed to recruit and retain people with the skills needed for 21st century warfare. Liberal Democrats are the only party who understand the new challenges faced by the Armed Forces and who are committed to properly supporting them. We will:

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- Commit to the principle of collective self-defence as laid out in the North Atlantic Treaty and spending two per cent of GDP on defence in line with NATO recommendations: as the economy grows after we have stopped Brexit, this will mean an extra £3 billion over the parliament.
- Strengthen our armed services and address critical skills shortages by recruiting STEM graduates to be armed forces engineers, providing ‘golden handshakes’ of up to £10,000.
- Promote an international treaty on the principles and limits of the use of technology in modern warfare.
- Recognise the expansion of warfare into the cybersphere by investing in our security and intelligence services and acting to counter cyberattacks.
- Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent, while pursuing multilateral nuclear disarmament: continuing with the Dreadnought programme, the submarine- based replacement for Vanguard, but procuring three boats and moving to a medium-readiness responsive posture and maintaining the deterrent through measures such as unpredictable and irregular patrolling patterns.
- Support the Armed Forces Covenant and ongoing work to support veterans’ mental health.
- Improve the quality of housing for service personnel by bringing the Ministry of Defence into line with other landlords, giving tenants the same legal rights to repair and maintenance as private tenants.

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### Trade, Aid and Investment

The liberal, international rules-based order has created peace and prosperity: trade has helped millions out of poverty and to live longer, healthier lives. But the system is imperfect and must improve to tackle global inequalities: gender inequality remains widespread and the climate crisis

will disproportionately impact the poorest people and poorest countries. Liberal Democrats are the only party with a vision for the future based on championing liberalism: the Conservatives are inward-looking and nationalist and committed to leaving the EU, the biggest champion of the liberal order in our part of the world; Jeremy Corbyn's Labour spring to the defence of authoritarian regimes in Venezuela and Iran, while failing to fight to stop Brexit. Our plan for the future is built on championing liberal and international values, ending poverty and promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals both in the UK and abroad. We will:

- Remain firmly committed to spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on aid, prioritising development that both helps the poorest and ties in with our strategic international objectives on gender equality, climate change and the environment, human rights, conflict prevention and tackling inequality.
- Increase the proportion of the aid budget committed to tackling climate change and environmental degradation: helping countries mitigate the impact of climate change and other environmental crises and support climate refugees.
- Pursue a foreign agenda with gender equality at its heart, focusing on: the transformation of the position of women through economic inclusion, education and training; ensuring the lives of women and girls are not ignored in favour of trade or regional alliances; working to extend reproductive rights and end female genital mutilation; and ending sexual violence in conflict zones.
- Protect, defend, and promote human rights for all, including LGBT+ individuals who are persecuted across the world as well as those persecuted for their religion or belief.
- Develop a global education strategy to address the urgent crisis of 263 million children missing out on schooling.
- Work through international bodies for better regulation and scrutiny of international trade and investment treaties to ensure they do not worsen inequalities or undermine human rights or developing countries' ability to regulate the environmental and social impacts of businesses.
- Champion global anti-corruption initiatives and ensure the UK and British Overseas Territories have publicly-accessible registers of beneficial ownership of companies registered in their jurisdictions.

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## Promoting Human Rights and Equality Around the World

Human rights are global. An individual's liberty should be equally respected wherever they live. However, as authoritarian regimes trample over freedom of speech and belief and LGBT+ and other people are continuing to suffer discrimination, this is far from being the case. Liberal Democrats are the only party capable of renewing international liberalism and combatting discrimination: the Conservatives' Brexit will mean prioritising trade deals over people's rights and Labour cannot hope to tackle discrimination abroad when they cannot even root out anti-Semitism in their own party. We are the only party with a credible plan to enhance the UK's soft power and to use it to promote human rights and democracy around the world. We will:

- Require UK-registered NGOs and organisations including the Armed Forces and defence contractors to report all instances of documented abuse overseas to government – reviewing, reducing, or refusing funding to organisations found in breach of these rules.
- Establish an easy and appropriate reporting mechanism for abuse that makes clear that reporters and whistleblowers will not be discriminated against for reporting abuse.
- Support free media and a free and open internet, championing the free flow of information.
- Support the current UN initiative to protect journalists – combatting the impunity granted to those who attack reporters on the frontline – by funding UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication.
- Work to abolish the death penalty around the world and remove the power of ministers to allow security and justice assistance in cases that could result in its use.
- Work to end the use of torture around the world and conduct a full inquiry into the UK Government's involvement in torture and rendition.
- Develop proposals with the BBC for investment to grow the World Service to reach more people across the world with independent and trusted news and continue to support BBC Monitoring and the British Council.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world and advancing LGBT+ rights.
- Appoint an Ambassador-level Champion for Freedom of Belief.

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## Global Climate Action Now

The climate emergency is a global challenge and requires a global solution. However, with the US withdrawing from the Paris Agreement and with most national climate policies falling well short of the Agreement's ambition to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, this global solution looks a long way off. Neither the Conservatives nor Labour have a plan to tackle this: the Conservatives have given no real thought to the climate emergency, and Labour are only interested in repeating empty slogans. Liberal Democrats are the only party with a detailed plan to lead global efforts to combat the climate emergency. We will:

- Support the Paris Agreement by playing a leadership role in international efforts to combat climate change, demonstrating commitment by rapidly reducing emissions from the UK economy, increasing development spending on climate objectives and aiming to persuade all countries to commit to net zero climate goals by the 2020 UN climate conference in Glasgow.
- Use our role in the EU to tackle the climate emergency, by setting a binding, EU-wide net zero target of 2050, and continuing to take part in the EU's Internal Energy Market, to provide access to clean energy sources while keeping costs low.
- Strengthen climate and environmental goals in EU trade and investment agreements and refuse to enter any trade agreements with countries that have policies counter to the Paris Agreement, including the Mercosur-EU free trade agreement because of the Brazilian government's actions in the Amazon.
- Initiate negotiations within the UN for a legally binding international treaty on plastics reduction.
- Argue for ambitious new legally binding international targets to protect global biodiversity, and an effective global oceans treaty to create a network of ocean sanctuaries. We will also provide greater resources for international environmental cooperation, particularly on actions to tackle illegal and unsustainable trade in timber, wildlife, ivory, and fish.
- Argue for an end to all fossil fuel subsidies world-wide and provide aid to developing countries to help them transition to clean sources of energy.

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## Appendix 2. Comments extracted from coded manifestos (appendix 1)

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Con	Other	Under the Conservatives, Britain has regained her rightful influence in the world.
1992	Con	LI	We have stood up for the values our country has always represented.
1992	Con	GP	We have defended Britain's interests with vigour and with success.
1992	Con	Other	We play a central part in world affairs as a member of the European Community, NATO, the Commonwealth and the Group of 7 leading industrial countries, and as a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council.
1992	Con	TL	We are taking a leading role in recasting all the main international institutions to which we belong: the United Nations, the European Community, NATO, and the Commonwealth.
1992	Con	TL	Britain will be at the centre of these negotiations.
1992	Con	SQP	Under the authority of the UN, British forces played a leading and courageous part in the Gulf War and the liberation of Kuwait.
1992	Con	LI	At the Prime Minister's instigation, the UN also backed the operation to protect the Kurds.
1992	Con	LI	Britain has led the world in helping the reforms in the former Soviet Union.
1992	Con	Other	The Prime Minister gave full and immediate support to President Yeltsin in the August coup attempt, and was the first Western leader to visit Moscow after the coup failed.
1992	Con	Other	Britain has led the way in building up relations with the republics of the new Commonwealth of Independent States.
1992	Con	SQP	We will support an enhanced role for the UN in peace-keeping and combating state-sponsored terrorism.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Con	SQP	We are determined that Iraq should comply with the terms of the Gulf War cease-fire agreement, and in particular that it should co-operate with the UN in dismantling its weapons of mass destruction.
1992	Con	GLTS	We support early Russian membership of the IMF and World Bank, as well as a stabilisation fund for the rouble.
1992	Con	TL	We are co-operating with our partners to provide urgent help to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to upgrade the safety of their nuclear power stations.
1992	Con	GP	We strongly support the peace process in the Middle East. The outcome of the talks must safeguard the security of Israel and achieve self-determination for the people of the occupied territories.
1992	Con	GP	We will safeguard the prosperity of Hong Kong
1992	Con	LI	nurture democratic institutions
1992	Con	GP	and work with the Chinese Government within the terms of the Joint Declaration.
1992	Con	GP	We seek a solution to the dispute which has divided Cyprus since 1974. A settlement must recognise that Cyprus is indivisible and that the rights of both communities must be assured.
1992	Con	SQP	We will support the UN's efforts to secure a fair and lasting solution.
1992	Con	GP	The problems of Kashmir cannot be resolved by violence. We urge both India and Pakistan to address and resolve the issue, and we stand ready to help.
1992	Con	LC	Britain is taking the lead in encouraging these trends.
1992	Con	TL (dev)	We give substantial aid to the relief of poverty and to help the struggling economies of the developing world. Our aid programme next year (excluding aid to Eastern Europe and the CIS) will reach £1,800 million.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Con	TL (dev)	We are urging the international community to take decisive action on debt relief,
1992	Con	GTS	the liberalisation of world trade
1992	Con	LI	and support for good government.
1992	Con	TL (dev)	We continue to accept the long-term UN target for aid of 0.7 per cent of GNP, although we cannot set a timetable for its achievement.
1992	Con	LI	We are supporting projects designed to build efficient institutions and accountable government. We are helping to improve public administration and the legal system in a number of countries.
1992	Con	LI	We will use overseas aid to promote good government,
1992	Con	TL (eco)	sensible economic policies, the rooting out of corruption,
1992	Con	LI	and - crucially - respect for human rights and the rule of law.
1992	Con	TL (dev)	We will press creditor countries to accept the Prime Minister's proposal - the 'Trinidad Terms' - for a two-thirds reduction in the official debt of the poorest countries.
1992	Con	LI	We will promote the development of multi- party systems through the new Westminster Foundation for Democracy.
1992	Con	Other	We will promote the English language by strengthening both the British Council and the BBC World Service.
1992	Con	GP	We have always put the security of our country first. We have kept the peace by staying strong.
1992	Con	GP	But we still face grave risks to our security. We cannot drop our guard. Under the Conservatives, Britain will never do so.
1992	Con	GP	Britain must be able to respond to any unexpected danger.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Con	FAUS	For over forty years, our security has been based firmly on NATO, the most successful defensive alliance ever. We will work with our allies to ensure that NATO remains the cornerstone of our defence. Britain will command a new NATO Rapid Reaction Corps ready to deploy quickly to counter any sudden threat. As Europeans, we must accept a greater role in safeguarding the peace in our continent.
1992	Con	TL (arms)	We will promote arms control and reduction initiatives. On Britain's initiative, the UN is establishing a register of arms transfers in order to monitor any dangerous arsenals of weapons.
1992	Con	TL (arms)	Britain has always been strongly opposed to nuclear proliferation. We will back an enhanced role for the International Atomic Energy Agency in inspecting nuclear sites and for the UN Security Council in acting against those nations which break their non-proliferation obligations.
1992	Con	FAUS	We will work to strengthen the Western European Union as the European pillar of NATO. We will press for a European reaction force.
1992	Con	FAUS	We will intensify the co-ordination of security policies within the Twelve.
1992	Con	RPEU	We will work through the CSCE to safeguard the security of Europe.
1992	Con	TL (arms)	We will support a comprehensive and verifiable ban on chemical weapons, and further controls on the export of items which could be used in making biological weapons.
1992	Con	TL (arms)	We will help Russia in her efforts to dismantle nuclear weapons.
1992	Con	GP	We are the only party unambiguously committed to the preservation and modernisation of our independent nuclear deterrent.
1992	Con	GP	We insist that our forces have the modern, effective equipment that they need. The Gulf War showed that the Services must have the latest technology to give them maximum flexibility and mobility. That is why we have ordered the new Challenger II tank for the Army, the Merlin helicopter for the Navy, the ASRAAM air defence missile for the RAF and a wide range of other new equipment for our Forces.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Con	GP	Our reappraisal of Britain's defence needs will result in a major restructuring of our Armed Forces to take account of the changing world situation. In future, our Forces will be smaller, but better equipped.
1992	Con	GP	We will complete the deployment of the next generation of Britain's minimum nuclear deterrent. We will order and complete the fourth Trident submarine.
1992	Con	GP	We will ensure the Forces have the best and most modern equipment.
1992	Con	RPEU	The Conservatives have been the party of Britain in Europe for 30 years.
1992	Con	RPEU	We have ensured that Britain is at the heart of Europe; a strong and respected partner.
1992	Con	RPEU	We have played a decisive part in the development of the Community over the past decade. It was a British initiative which launched the Single Market programme and our insistence which reformed the Community's finances. Britain has promoted co-operation on foreign policy and in combating terrorism. Britain has also persuaded our partners to welcome new countries who apply for Community membership.
1992	Con	RPEU	The Maastricht Treaty was a success both for Britain and for the rest of Europe. British proposals helped to shape the key provisions of the Treaty including those strengthening the enforcement of Community law defence, subsidiarity and law and order.
1992	Con	ISOL	But Britain refused to accept the damaging Social Chapter proposed by other Europeans, and it was excluded from the Maastricht treaty.
1992	Con	RPEU	All Member States must live up to their obligations under Community law. At Maastricht, we secured agreement that the European Court will be able to fine any Member State which fails to do so.
1992	Con	RPEU	We will work closely with our partners in foreign policy and in the war on international crime.
1992	Con	Other	We will continue to resist changes to the Treaty of Rome that would damage British business.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will resist Commission initiatives which run counter to the principle that issues should be dealt with on a national basis wherever possible.
1992	Con	GLTS	Britain is a great trading nation. We prosper through the maintenance of an open trading system. We will work for a successful outcome to the GATT negotiations.
1992	Con	RPEU (scep)	will resist pressure to extend Community competence to new areas.
1992	Con	RPEU	We will work to strengthen the external frontiers of the Community
1992	Con	ISOL	maintaining the checks needed at our own borders against illegal immigration, drugs, terrorism and disease.
1992	Con	GLTS	We shall use it to promote our vision of an outward looking Community based on free enterprise.
1992	Con	RPEU	To start negotiations with those EFTA countries who want to join the Community so that they can join by 1995.
1992	Con	RPEU	To build on the EC's Association Agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland so that we can welcome them to full membership by the year 2000.
1992	Con	RPEU	To conclude EC trade and co-operation agreements with the main republics of the former Soviet Union.
1992	Con	RPEU	To complete the single market and extend it to the seven countries of EFTA
1992	Con	GLTS	The single market will create an open market of 350 million customers for British goods and services. To complete the single market, we shall aim to: open up the market for life insurance to free competition; liberalise air travel to bring down air fares in Europe closer to those in America; free up the shipping and road transport markets so that British operators can carry freely within the EC;

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			increase competition in the European energy sector.
1992	Con	GTS	We will provide guidance and help to any British company encountering a trade barrier illegal under European law.
1992	Con	TL (enviro)	We will press for progress on the environment, including the Fifth Environment Action Programme.
1992	Lab	Other	A Labour government ready to exploit Britain's unique, interlinking membership of the United Nations Security Council, NATO, the Commonwealth, the European Community and the G7
1992	Lab	TL (arms)	Labour, which in opposition joined our NATO allies in rejecting the Conservative government's cold war nostalgia, will in government partner the United States in negotiating to reduce the world's stocks of nuclear weapons. We shall seek to involve the four former Soviet nuclear republics, together with France and China.
1992	Lab	GP	Labour will retain Britain's nuclear capability, with the number of warheads no greater than the present total
1992	Lab	TL (arms)	The Labour government will work in the United Nations for a strengthened nuclear non-proliferation treaty, backed by meaningful sanctions and by a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. We will in addition work for a global ban on chemical and biological weapons and stronger controls to prevent proliferation of ballistic missiles. Meanwhile, we will join Russia in ending nuclear tests.
1992	Lab	SQP	We will actively support the peace-making role of the UN - for example, in Cambodia and Somalia - and work for a permanent United Nations peace-keeping force.
1992	Lab	GP	The Labour government will work in the United Nations and the European Community to enhance peace prospects in the Middle East. Our aims are security for Israel and self-determination for the Palestinians.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Lab	TL (arms)	There must be strict control on arms sales to the region.
1992	Lab	GP	Labour will work in the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the European Community and NATO to help bring about the peaceful reunification of Cyprus, on the federal basis advocated by the sovereign government of Cyprus. The Labour government will make itself available to our friends in India and Pakistan to assist in achieving a negotiated solution to the problem of Kashmir that is acceptable to all the people of Kashmir - Moslems, Hindus and Buddhists.
1992	Lab	LI	We will, as a matter of urgency, discuss with Hong Kong's representatives what measures may best enhance democracy and confidence during Britain's five remaining years of responsibility for the colony.
1992	Lab	FAUS	As the party which took Britain into NATO, Labour will base its defence policies on UK membership of the alliance.
1992	Lab	GP	We will provide whatever resources are needed for effective defence for our country, providing the necessary level of forces with the appropriate equipment and weapons.
1992	Lab	TL (arms)	Selling more arms to poor countries is not an acceptable or effective way of maintaining Britain's defence industries. We will stop sales to countries which might use them for internal repression or international aggression.
1992	Lab	RPEU	The Labour government will promote Britain out of the European second division into which our country has been relegated by the Tories.
1992	Lab	RPEU	We shall use that presidency to end the Tories' opt-out from the Social Chapter, so that the British people can benefit from European safeguards.
1992	Lab	TL (eco)	We will also use our presidency to help ensure that poorer countries are not disadvantaged as a result of the Single Market.
1992	Lab	RPEU	We shall play an active part in negotiations on Economic and Monetary Union. We shall fight for Britain's interests, working for Europe-wide policies to fight unemployment and to enhance



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			regional and structural industrial policy. The elected finance ministers of the different countries must become the effective political counterpart to the central bank whose headquarters should be in Britain.
1992	Lab	RPEU	We shall make the widening of the Community a priority, and shall advocate speedy admission for Austria, Sweden, Finland and Cyprus, whose membership applications have been or are about to be lodged. We shall seek to create conditions in which, at the appropriate time, the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe can join the Community.
1992	Lab	LI	Labour will set up a Human Rights Division in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and require all Britain's diplomatic posts abroad to appoint an officer to monitor human rights. There will be an annual report to Parliament. Decisions on economic aid and arms sales will be linked to human rights records.
1992	Lab	Other	Labour will end Tory government meddling in the valuable work of the British Council. Within carefully controlled costings, Labour will consider new scope for the BBC World Service, praised by listeners such as Terry Waite and Mikhail Gorbachev, and for the BBC's World Service Television Service.
1992	Lab	TL (dev)	The Labour government will aim to meet the United Nations aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP within five years - the lifetime of a full Parliament. Labour will establish a separate Department of State for International development, whose Minister will be in the Cabinet.
1992	Lab	TL (dev)	Tackling poverty will be the top priority of our aid programme. We will make aid more effective, work more closely with non-governmental agencies, put women at the heart of our programme and, in co-ordination with other donors, reduce the share of tied aid. Labour will promote environmentally sustainable development and encourage new approaches to reduce Third World debt. We will restore funding for development education in the UK.
1992	Lab	TL (eco)	We will promote greater and fairer trade for poor countries, to enable their economies to grow and diversify.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	Lab	SQP	Labour will take Britain back into UNESCO.
1992	Lab	TL (dev)	The Labour government will work within the G7 and the European Community to win support for a New Marshall Plan to assist the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the ex-Soviet Union.
1992	Lab	LC	Labour believes that this unique inter-racial and inter-hemispheric organization can play a central role in fighting racism, hunger and human rights violations. We shall play an active part in the Commonwealth and join the South Africa Committee of Foreign Ministers which the Tories have boycotted.
1992	Lab	TL (enviro)	Labour will set the pace in pressing for international action to safeguard the ozone layer, to combat acid rain, to tackle the problem of global warming, to face up to the environmental needs of the poorest people of the world. We will scrap the Tory government's opt-out on European Community environmental protection measures and deadlines. Labour will adamantly oppose any attempts to permit commercial exploitation of the virgin continent of Antarctica.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats will take decisive steps towards a fully integrated, federal and democratic European Community. We believe that by sharing sovereignty and pooling power, Britain and its partners will be better able to achieve common goals for the economy, the environment, society and security than by acting alone. Our aim is to create a citizens' Europe in which power lies as close to the citizen as possible.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats want Britain to play a full role in creating a dynamic and democratic Europe. We will use Britain's six-month tenure of the Presidency of the Community's Council of Ministers to make a start on the real tasks that lie ahead: building a prosperous and integrated economy; correcting the democratic deficit, making Europe work for its citizens, not its institutions; widening the Community's membership; and helping to create a peaceful and stable new world order. We cannot expect Britain to influence the direction the Community takes in the next decade unless it is a full and enthusiastic member.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	LibD	RPEU	Our vision of the new Europe is of a federal community, where power is exercised at the lowest level consistent with good government.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Economic and monetary union including the establishment of an independent European Central Bank and a single European currency. We will renounce the Conservatives' 'opt-out' clause and accept the timetable for EMU.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Cooperation in research and innovation. We will encourage further collaboration within the EC on major scientific projects and the development of new technologies such as telecommunications, information technology and environmentally sustainable innovations.
1992	LibD	TL (enviro)	Action on the environment.
1992	LibD	TL (enviro)	The proposed European Environmental Agency must be established, a European energy policy drawn up and environmental subsidies and penalties applied Community-wide.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Prepare for Community enlargement, welcoming EFTA members and, when they are ready, the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Britain must ensure that the Community plays a pivotal role in the construction of a new security order in Europe, following the democratisation of Eastern and Central Europe.
1992	LibD	TL (arms)	New initiatives for disarmament and for sharing security burdens will enable further reductions in levels of armaments to be made without endangering security.
1992	LibD	SQP	On the global stage, a stronger United Nations will be needed to underpin cooperation in tackling the world's problems.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Develop common European Community foreign and security policies. This will include a common approach to defence procurement and the gradual integration of Community members' armed forces under a joint military command.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	LibD	RPEU	The burden of collective security in Western Europe should be shared more equally; we will press for contributions from all nations to the costs of joint forces such as NATO's proposed Rapid Reaction Force - of which Britain will provide almost half.
1992	LibD	LI	Promote democracy and reform in Eastern and Central Europe by coordinating generous economic assistance to countries introducing democracy, guaranteeing human rights and reforming their economies.
1992	LibD	TL (dev)	Assist the peaceful evolution of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the former USSR. We will help not just with food and financial aid and technical assistance, but also with the provision of military resources to shift food and supplies,
1992	LibD	TL (arms)	and with scientific assistance to dismantle nuclear weapons.
1992	LibD	RPEU	Develop a pan-European security framework. We will encourage the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to develop monitoring, verification and mediation duties within the continent.
1992	LibD	FAUS	We will press for NATO to guarantee the borders of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary and to enter into talks with other governments in the region for similar guarantees.
1992	LibD	GP	Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. We believe that the UK needs to retain its independent nuclear deterrent,
1992	LibD	TL (arms)	but that the escalation of firepower represented by the scale of the Trident replacement for Polaris is unnecessary and unhelpful. We will ensure that the total number of warheads on the four-boat Trident system is limited to no more than that currently deployed on the Polaris system, and our Defence Review will also examine the possibilities of future European cooperation in the provision of a deterrent force. We reject the Government's proposed replacement of British free-fall nuclear bombs with air-to-surface missiles.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	LibD	TL (arms)	<p>Proposed new disarmament initiatives covering all categories of conventional and nuclear weapons. These will aim to eliminate non-strategic nuclear weapons from Europe, and to reduce the strategic weapons possessed by the US, the former Soviet Union, Britain, France and China - a vital step towards the day when individual nations' possession of nuclear deterrents ceases to be necessary.</p> <p>Act against the arms trade. Together with our Community partners, we will establish a register of all international arms sales, eventually to become a UN register. We will place a total embargo on arms sales to regimes which violate human rights, and work for further global agreements among suppliers to control arms sales and technology transfer. We will close the Defence Export Services Organisation and ensure that overseas said is not linked in any way to arms purchases.</p>
1992	LibD	SQP	Make the United Nations more effective.
1992	LibD	SQP	We will work with our Community partners to ensure that funds are available for maintaining peace and security.
1992	LibD	GP	Because of the need to assign British forces to this and to European policing and disaster roles (on top of their present commitments), more general-purpose infantry battalions will be required than the number currently planned by the Conservative Government.
1992	LibD	TL	Britain must play its part in developing prosperity, protecting the world environment, eradicating poverty, famine and disease, and promoting human rights and international cooperation.
1992	LibD	TL (dev)	Increasing overseas aid to reach the UN target of 0.7% of GNP over five years. We will increase aid especially to democratic countries carrying out policies which benefit the poorest, are environmentally sustainable and respect human rights. We will raise the proportion of aid given as grants instead of loans and place greater emphasis on supporting small-scale, community-based, labour-intensive projects.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	LibD	RPEU	We will promote closer European cooperation, to make the best use of national and Community aid, and avoid wasteful duplication.
1992	LibD	SQP	We will re-join UNESCO.
1992	LibD	TL (dev)	Ending the commercialisation of aid which the current Government has practised and which substantially reduces its value to the world's poorest. We will reduce the proportion of UK aid tied to the purchase of UK goods and services and ensure that help to British exports is solely a function of the Department of Trade and Industry, rather than the ODA.
1992	LibD	TL (enviro)	Encouraging environmentally sustainable development. This includes the transfer of appropriate technology, the development of sustainable agriculture and forestry, sustainable use policies for the tropical rain forests and projects to prevent desertification, and the promotion of energy conservation and renewable energy schemes. We will provide technical help to develop methods of resource accounting and environmental and ensure that measures of sustainability are incorporated in decisions on development projects and programmes.
1992	LibD	TL	Urgent action to tackle the growth in the world's population.
1992	LibD	TL	We will give priority to support for family-planning programmes, education and employment opportunities for women, and basic provision for old age.
1992	LibD	TL (eco)	Reform of the world trading and financial systems.
1992	LibD	GLTS	We see the successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of the GATT world trade talks as an urgent priority.
1992	LibD	TL (eco)	We will press the EC to coordinate international action to resolve the debt crisis, including reducing government-to-government debt, introducing regulatory and tax regimes to encourage commercial banks to reduce or write off debt, extending eligibility to IMF and World Bank loans, and encouraging, where appropriate, debt for development and debt for environment swaps.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1992	LibD	GLTS	We will press for the progressive reduction of all tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, and in particular the removal of unfair trading barriers against developing countries.
1997	Con	Other	Britain is a world leader
1997	Con	RPEU	as well as a European nation
1997	Con	GLTS	Our economic strength, our history and our language make us a global trading nation with links right around the world.
1997	Con	Other	Only the United Kingdom is a member of the European Union, the United Nations Security Council, the Commonwealth, NATO and the Group of Seven leading industrial nations.
1997	Con	GP	In the Gulf, Bosnia, Cyprus and Northern Iraq, John Major has shown how our nation can contribute to world peace.
1997	Con	GP	We will continue to work with international partners to secure peace and stability in areas of tension such as former Yugoslavia; in Kashmir; in Cyprus; and in the Middle East.
1997	Con	SQP	We will promote reform of the United Nations to make it a more effective organisation for securing international stability.
1997	Con	SQP	Britain will continue to deploy our outstanding Armed Forces as peacekeepers under the United Nations
1997	Con	RPEU	And we will support the aspirations of the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and others to join the European Union
1997	Con	FAUS	and NATO.
1997	Con	LI	After the transfer of Hong Kong, we will work under the terms of the Joint Declaration to help sustain the prosperity and way of life of the people of Hong Kong
1997	Con	GP	and build on the substantial British interests that will remain.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	Con	LC	We will continue to support the Commonwealth, our unique global network, to encourage the spread of democracy; as set out in the Harare Declaration.
1997	Con	TL (dev)	We will focus our aid programme to encourage sustainable development in countries that are growing towards self-sufficiency under democratic government. We have taken the lead in alleviating the burden of debt for the world's poorest countries. We also have significant flows of private investment to developing economies. We are more than achieving the long-term UN target of 1% of GDP for the transfer of wealth to less developed countries. We will continue to maintain a significant bilateral and multilateral aid programme reflecting the aspiration of meeting the UN's target of 0.7% of GDP for aid as a long-term objective.
1997	Con	TL (enviro)	We will also continue to provide leadership in Europe and internationally on environmental issues, building on the Rio Conference to encourage sustainable development - meeting our commitment to reduce Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions by 10% on 1990 levels by 2010 to prevent climate change.
1997	Con	RPEU	The government has a positive vision for the European Union as a partnership of nations.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We want to be in Europe but not run by Europe.
1997	Con	RPEU	We have much to gain from our membership of the European Union -in trade, in co-operation between governments, and in preserving European peace.
1997	Con	GLTS	We benefit from the huge trade opportunities that have opened up since Britain led the way in developing Europe's single market. We want to see the rest of Europe follow the same deregulated, enterprise policies that have transformed our economic prospects in Britain.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	A Conservative Government will seek a partnership of nation states.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	A British Conservative Government will not allow Britain to be part of a federal European state.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We must also ensure that any developments which only include some members do not work to the disadvantage of others.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	Con	RPEU	Our priorities for Europe's development will be enlargement of the Community, completion of the single market, reform of the European Court of Justice, and further strengthening of the role of national parliaments. We will seek more co-operation between national governments on areas of common interest - defence, foreign policy and the fight against international crime and drugs
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We also believe the European Union itself should do less, but do it better. So, we have proposed incorporating the principle of subsidiarity - that the European Union should only do that which cannot be done by member states acting alone - into the Treaty. This is how we are approaching the Inter-Governmental Conference.
1997	Con	Other	We will argue for a flexible Europe which fully accommodates the interests and aspirations of all its member states and where any new proposals have to be open to all and agreed by all.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will not accept other changes to the Treaty that would further centralise decision-making, reduce national sovereignty, or remove our right to permanent opt-outs.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will retain Britain's veto and oppose further extension of qualified majority voting in order to ensure we can prevent policies that would be harmful to the national interest. We will defend the rights of national parliaments and oppose more powers being given to the European Parliament at the expense of national parliaments.
1997	Con	ISOL	We will take whatever steps are necessary to keep our frontier controls.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will resist attempts to change the inter-governmental nature of co-operation in justice and home affairs. We will not accept the development of new legal rights that extend the concept of European citizenship.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	Britain's rebate has so far saved British taxpayers £18bn and we will protect it.
1997	Con	GLTS	Here Britain is leading the way. We will continue to argue for deregulation and lower costs on Europe's businesses, the policies that have helped give Britain one of the strongest economies in Europe

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will not put that achievement at risk by signing up to the Social Chapter, which would open the door to imposing the high costs of the European social model on British business. Once Britain accepted the Social Chapter we could not stop many of these damaging policies being imposed on us by qualified majority voting.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will insist that any new Treaty recognises that our opt-out from the Social Chapter enables Britain to be exempt from the Working Time Directive, and prevents any abuse of our opt-out. And we will not accept a new employment chapter in any revised Treaty, which would expose British businesses to new costs.
1997	Con	GP	Only the Conservatives can be trusted to stand up for Britain in Europe: our national interest must be protected.
1997	Con	Other	It is in our national interest to take part in the negotiations. Not to do so would be an abdication of responsibility. A single currency would affect us whether we were in or out. We need to participate in discussions in order to ensure the rules are not fixed against our interests. The national interest is not served by exercising our option - one way or the other - before we have to.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will not include legislation on the single currency in the first Queen's Speech. If it cannot proceed safely, we believe it would be better for Europe to delay any introduction of a single currency rather than rush ahead to meet an artificial timetable. We will argue this case in the negotiations that lie ahead.
1997	Con	Other	We believe it is in our national interest to keep our options open to take a decision on a single currency when all the facts are before us
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	If a single currency is created, without sustainable convergence, a British Conservative government will not be part of it.
1997	Con	RPEU (scep)	If, during the course of the next parliament, a Conservative government were to conclude that it was in our national interest to join a single currency, we have given a guarantee that no such

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			decision would be implemented unless the British people gave their express approval in a referendum.
1997	Con	GP	Britain must be able to react rapidly to protect our security and interests around the globe.
1997	Con	GP	Our armed forces are the most professional in the world.
1997	Con	GP	We have cut unnecessary bureaucracy and increased efficiency, and directed money to support our Services in the frontline. We have made the changes necessary to adapt our Services to the threats which we might now face. We have set out defence plans based on stable levels of funding.
1997	Con	GP	We will continue to ensure the Services have the modern weapons they need to guarantee their superiority against potential aggressors. We will make sure we can conduct military operations throughout the world, and develop our capability to deploy the three services together and rapidly, including the ability to transport heavy equipment into an operational zone. We will take part in ballistic missile defence research so we can decide whether we should procure any such system for the United Kingdom.
1997	Con	FAUS	NATO will remain the cornerstone of our security.
1997	Con	ISOL	We will resist attempts to bring the Western European Union under the control of the European Union, and ensure that defence policy remains a matter for sovereign nations.
1997	Lab	RPEU	We will give Britain leadership in Europe
1997	Lab	RPEU (scep)	Referendum on single currency
1997	Lab	RPEU	Lead reform of the EU
1997	Lab	GP	Retain Trident:
1997	Lab	FAUS	strong defence through NATO

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	Lab	SQP	A reformed United Nations
1997	Lab	TL (dev)	Helping to tackle global poverty
1997	Lab	Other	Britain, though an island nation with limited natural resources, has for centuries been a leader of nations.
1997	Lab	GP	With a new Labour government, Britain will be strong in defence; resolute in standing up for its own interests;
1997	Lab	LI	an advocate of human rights and democracy the world over;
1997	Lab	SQP	a reliable and powerful ally in the international institutions of which we are a member;
1997	Lab	RPEU	and will be a leader in Europe.
1997	Lab	RPEU	Our vision of Europe is of an alliance of independent nations choosing to co-operate to achieve the goals they cannot achieve alone.
1997	Lab	RPEU (scep)	We oppose a European federal superstate.
1997	Lab	RPEU	But withdrawal would be disastrous for Britain. It would put millions of jobs at risk. It would dry up inward investment. It would destroy our clout in international trade negotiations. It would relegate Britain from the premier division of nations.
1997	Lab	RPEU	The third is the path a new Labour government will take.
1997	Lab	GLTS	Rapid completion of the single market: a top priority for the British presidency. We will open up markets to competition; pursue tough action against unfair state aids; and ensure proper enforcement of single market rules. This will strengthen Europe's competitiveness and open up new opportunities for British firms.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	Lab	RPEU	High priority for enlargement of the European Union to include the countries of central and eastern Europe and Cyprus, and the institutional reforms necessary to make an enlarged Europe work more efficiently.
1997	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will seek a thorough overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy to conserve our fish stocks in the long-term interests of the UK fishing industry.
1997	Lab	RPEU (scep)	Retention of the national veto over key matters of national interest, such as taxation, defence and security, immigration, decisions over the budget and treaty changes, while considering the extension of Qualified Majority Voting in limited areas where that is in Britain's interests.
1997	Lab	RPEU	Britain to sign the Social Chapter. An 'empty chair' at the negotiating table is disastrous for Britain.
1997	Lab	RPEU (scep)	Any decision about Britain joining the single currency must be determined by a hard-headed assessment of Britain's economic interests.
1997	Lab	RPEU	However, to exclude British membership of EMU forever would be to destroy any influence we have over a process which will affect us whether we are in or out. We must therefore play a full part in the debate to influence it in Britain's interests.
1997	Lab	GP	A new Labour government will build a strong defence against these threats.
1997	Lab	FAUS	Our security will continue to be based on NATO.
1997	Lab	GP	Our armed forces are among the most effective in the world. The country takes pride in their professionalism and courage.
1997	Lab	GP	We will ensure that they remain strong to defend Britain.
1997	Lab	Other	But the security of Britain is best served in a secure world, so we should be willing to contribute to wider international peace and security both through the alliances to which we belong
1997	Lab	FAUS	, in particular NATO

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	Lab	Other	and the Western European Union,
1997	Lab	SQP	and through other international organisations such as the UN
1997	Lab	SQP	and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
1997	Lab	GP	A new Labour government will retain Trident.
1997	Lab	TL (arms)	We will press for multilateral negotiations towards mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons. When satisfied with verified progress towards our goal of the global elimination of nuclear weapons, we will ensure that British nuclear weapons are included in multilateral negotiations.
1997	Lab	TL (arms)	Labour will work for the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and for a strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention. Labour will ban the import, export, transfer and manufacture of all forms of antipersonnel landmines. We will introduce an immediate moratorium on their use. Labour will not permit the sale of arms to regimes that might use them for internal repression or international aggression. We will increase the transparency and accountability of decisions on export licences for arms. And we will support an EU code of conduct governing arms sales.
1997	Lab	SQP	A new Labour government will use Britain's permanent seat on the Security Council to press for substantial reform of the United Nations, including an early resolution of its funding crisis, and a more effective role in peacekeeping, conflict prevention, the protection of human rights and safeguarding the global environment.
1997	Lab	LC	The Commonwealth provides Britain with a unique network of contacts linked by history, language and legal systems. Labour is committed to giving renewed priority to the Commonwealth in our foreign relations. We will seize the opportunity to increase trade and economic co-operation and will also build alliances with our Commonwealth partners to promote reform at the UN and common action on the global environment. Britain has a real opportunity to

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			provide leadership to the Commonwealth when we host the heads of government meeting in Britain at the end of 1997.
1997	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour will also attach much higher priority to combating global poverty and underdevelopment.
1997	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour believes that we have a clear moral responsibility to help combat global poverty. In government, we will strengthen and restructure the British aid programme and bring development issues back into the mainstream of government decision-making. A Cabinet minister will lead a new department of international development.
1997	Lab	TL (dev)	We will shift aid resources towards programmes that help the poorest people in the poorest countries. We reaffirm the UK's commitment to the 0.7 per cent UN aid target and in government Labour will start to reverse the decline in UK aid spending.
1997	Lab	RPEU	We will work for greater consistency between the aid, trade, agriculture and economic reform policies of the EU. We will use our leadership position in the EU to maintain and enhance the position of the poorest countries during the renegotiation of the Lome Convention.
1997	Lab	TL (eco)	We will support further measures to reduce the debt burden borne by the world's poorest countries and to ensure that developing countries are given a fair deal in international trade.
1997	Lab	SQP	It is our aim to rejoin UNESCO.
1997	Lab	LI	Labour wants Britain to be respected in the world for the integrity with which it conducts its foreign relations. We will make the protection and promotion of human rights a central part of our foreign policy. We will work for the creation of a permanent international criminal court to investigate genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
1997	Lab	TL (enviro)	Labour believes that the threats to the global climate should push environmental concerns higher up the international agenda.
1997	Lab	RPEU	A Labour government will strengthen cooperation in the European Union on environmental issues, including climate change and ozone depletion.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will lead the fight against global warming, through our target of a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2010.
1997	Lab	TL (enviro)	Labour believes the international environment should be safeguarded in negotiations over international trade. We will also work for the successful negotiation of a new protocol on climate change to be completed in Japan in 1997.
1997	Lab	Other	Labour has traditionally been the party of internationalism. Britain cannot be strong at home if it is weak abroad.
1997	Lab	Other	A new Labour government will use those assets to the full to restore Britain's pride and influence as a leading force for good in the world. With effective leadership and clear vision, Britain could once again be at the centre of international decision-making instead of at its margins.
1997	LibD	Other	To recast Britain's foreign policy
1997	LibD	RPEU	and enable this country to play a leading role in shaping Europe
1997	LibD	SQP	and strengthening international institutions.
1997	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats will ensure that Britain plays a leading role in shaping Europe, democratising its institutions and strengthening its role as a framework for prosperity, peace and security.
1997	LibD	TL	Britain, with its world experience, expert armed forces and permanent membership of the UN Security Council, has a unique role to play in reforming international institutions for the next century.
1997	LibD	RPEU	Widen Europe to include the new democracies of central and eastern Europe.
1997	LibD	FAUS	Create a strong framework for Britain's defence and security through NATO
1997	LibD	RPEU	and European co-operation.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	LibD	TL	Give Britain a leading role in reforming and strengthening the UN and other international institutions.
1997	LibD	SQP	Promote an enforceable framework for international law,
1997	LibD	LI	human rights
1997	LibD	TL (enviro)	and the protection of the environment.
1997	LibD	RPEU	Britain's interests can only best be pursued through constructive participation in an enlarged European Union. Our vision is of a European Union that is decentralised, democratic and diverse.
1997	LibD	RPEU (scep)	Give the British people a say. Reform that fundamentally changes Britain's place in Europe should only proceed if it has the explicit support of Britain's people. If there is any substantial change in Britain's relationship with the EU, the British people must give their consent through a referendum.
1997	LibD	RPEU (scep)	But we will keep the veto on all issues relating to the constitution, budgetary matters and regulations on pay and social security. We support the use of the 'double majority', especially on matters such as foreign and security policy.
1997	LibD	ISOL	Each member state must retain the unfettered right to make its own decisions on the commitment of its national troops.
1997	LibD	RPEU	Britain has much to gain from EU membership. This will take new leadership, a new approach and a renewed sense of national confidence.
1997	LibD	RPEU	Enhance economic prosperity, by promoting the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and money throughout the EU and by completing the European Single Market, particularly in areas of financial services, pensions and air travel.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	LibD	RPEU	Participate in a successful single currency. Being part of a successful single currency will bring low inflation and low interest rates. Staying out will result in less investment and a loss of influence.
1997	LibD	RPEU (scep)	However, three conditions must be met before Britain can join. First, the single currency must be firmly founded on the Maastricht criteria. Second, Britain must meet those criteria. Third, the British people must have agreed to it in a referendum.
1997	LibD	RPEU	Strengthen the European framework for peace and security. Britain's security and national interests are best pursued in partnership with its European neighbours. We will work to strengthen European Common Foreign and Security policy to enable greater scope for united European action.
1997	LibD	ISOL	Individual member states must be free to decide whether or not their national forces will take part in any particular action.
1997	LibD	RPEU	Fight crime and protect citizens' rights through more effective co-operation between EU states' police and customs forces with greater democratic accountability. We will work to improve European co-operation against cross-border criminal activity and allow free movement for Britain's people throughout Europe.
1997	LibD	ISOL	The administration of border controls should remain with individual member nations until they can be confident that the EU's external borders are secure.
1997	LibD	GP	Britain must maintain an effective security capability.
1997	LibD	FAUS	This will best be achieved through NATO
1997	LibD	RPEU	and European co-operation,
1997	LibD	Other	and this country must continue to play a full part in both.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	LibD	GP	Maintain a strong defence at home and enable the UK to play a leading role in keeping international peace. We will maintain Britain's overall defence capability at its current level, whilst ensuring UK forces meet current needs and are appropriate to potential threats.
1997	LibD	GP	Retain Britain's basic nuclear capability through the Trident submarine force until such time as international multilateral nuclear disarmament can be achieved.
1997	LibD	TL (arms)	We will restrict the number of nuclear warheads on Trident to the same number as previously deployed on Polaris.
1997	LibD	TL (arms)	Resist the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We will press for the conclusion of a verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We will ensure that Britain plays an active part in talks to reduce the holdings of strategic nuclear weapons.
1997	LibD	FAUS	Support the principle of common security. We support the extension of the security guarantees, from which western Europe has benefited, to the new democracies of central and eastern Europe. We support NATO and its enlargement.
1997	LibD	SQP	In an increasingly inter-dependent world, the security of a medium sized nation like Britain is best preserved within a framework of international law that is effective and enforceable.
1997	LibD	SQP	Playing a leading role in strengthening and reforming the United Nations should be a central aspect of Britain's foreign policy over the next decade.
1997	LibD	SQP	Strengthen the UN's peacekeeping capability so that it can take earlier and more effective action to prevent or suppress conflict. This should include establishing fast track machinery for negotiations; permanent, on-call, peacekeeping forces made up from high-calibre troops provided by member states; the reinstatement of a Military Staff Committee; the establishment of a UN Staff College to train officers; and improvements to the UN's command control, communication and intelligence capabilities.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	LibD	LI	Support the establishment of an International Criminal Court to deal with genocide and war crimes.
1997	LibD	TL (enviro)	Countries must work together if the world's environment is to be protected.
1997	LibD	TL (enviro)	Take a lead in international environmental negotiations. We will press for tough and legally binding international targets for greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.
1997	LibD	TL (enviro)	Develop a global system of environmental protection. We will work for the creation of a global environmental organisation. We will promote an environmental equivalent of the Geneva Convention, to outlaw gross acts of environmental destruction in times of war.
1997	LibD	TL (dev)	The elimination of global famine, pestilence and poverty is not only a moral challenge, it is also essential for the world's long-term stability and peace
1997	LibD	TL (dev)	Increase Britain's contribution to overseas aid. We will set out a timetable for sustained progress towards achieving the UN target for overseas development aid of 0.7 per cent of GNP within the next 10 years. Promote a timetable for debt relief to the poorest states including a programme for cancelling debt and the creation of new and additional resources for debt relief.
1997	LibD	TL (dev)	Target Britain's bilateral aid where it is most needed. We will focus Britain's bilateral aid on the least developed countries and end the practice of tying aid.
1997	LibD	LI	Require states that receive UK development assistance to respect the fundamental human rights of their people and suspend UK programmes where these standards are breached.
1997	LibD	TL (arms)	Its growth must be diminished
1997	LibD	TL (arms)	End the sale of British arms, war material, and 'dual use' technologies to regimes which abuse human rights, and strictly control arms sales to regions of tension or potential conflict.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
1997	LibD	TL (arms)	Seek a new international regime to control the arms trade. We will support tighter EU-wide restrictions on transfers of military technology to non-democratic regimes and press for the establishment of a mandatory UN register, in which all arms sales and transfers must be listed.
1997	LibD	TL (arms)	Ban landmines. We will place an immediate and total ban on the production, stockpiling and export of anti-personnel landmines and work towards a global ban on landmine production.
1997	LibD	GLTS	The GATT Uruguay Round has successfully lowered barriers to international trade, but further reforms are needed
1997	LibD	GLTS	Enhance free trade by further reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, especially against the poorest countries.
1997	LibD	TL (eco)	Improve global labour standards by permitting countries to discriminate against goods produced by nations that maintain practices such as child, slave and forced labour. We will support the work of the International Labour Organisation in raising labour standards throughout the world.
1997	LibD	TL (enviro)	Advance environmental objectives. We support the addition of an environmental sustainability clause to the GATT, setting out agreed principles of environmental policy against which trade measures can be judged.
1997	LibD	TL (eco)	Reduce trans-national corporations' ability to abuse market power, through the development of a framework for global competition policy.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	A more flexible European Union
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	Veto further transfers of power from Westminster to Brussels
2001	Con	FAUS	No European army outside NATO
2001	Con	GLTS	Global free trade by 2020
2001	Con	LI	Britain is one of the world's most respected democracies,

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Con	Other	one of its most influential leaders,
2001	Con	GLTS	one of its most prosperous nations
2001	Con	GP	and one of its greatest military powers.
2001	Con	ISOL	The next Conservative Government will secure our independence
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	and use Britain's great strengths to help create a flexible Europe of nations
2001	Con	FAUS	, to maintain the Atlantic Alliance
2001	Con	LC	and to develop the role of the Commonwealth.
2001	Con	ISOL	"The next Conservative Government will keep the pound.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will maintain our national veto on European legislation."
2001	Con	RPEU	"We want early enlargement of the European Union – the first wave, including Cyprus, should be admitted by 2004"
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	The guiding principle of Conservative policy towards the European Union is to be in Europe, but not run by Europe.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will lead a debate in Europe about its future, promoting our own clear and positive vision.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	If Britain leads the debate, we can make this alternative a reality.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will insist on a Treaty 'flexibility' provision, so that outside the areas of the single market and core elements of an open, free-trading and competitive EU, countries need only participate in new legislative actions at a European level if they see this as in their national interest.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	At the same time, we are willing to support the principle of 'reinforced co-operation' in Europe, under which small groups of countries can become more closely integrated if they wish to do so, providing it does not damage Britain's national interest.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Con	ISOL	The next Conservative Government will keep the pound.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will maintain our national veto on European legislation. Giving up either would put our ability to govern ourselves at risk. We will not ratify the Nice Treaty but will renegotiate it so that Britain does not lose its veto.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	We also propose to amend our domestic law to include 'reserved powers'. This will prevent EU law from overriding the will of Parliament in areas which Parliament never intended to transfer to the EU.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	This policy will be reinforced with a determination to veto further transfers of power from Westminster to Brussels. Should any future Government wish to surrender any more of Parliament's rights and power to Brussels they should be required to secure approval for such a transfer in a referendum.
2001	Con	GLTS	We intend to press for the single market to be completed and for competition laws to be stronger so that British businesses which play by the rules are not undercut by other companies that do not.
2001	Con	GP	One of the reasons that Britain is respected around the world is that it remains a first-class military power.
2001	Con	GP	The British way of life and freedom and democracy around the world are made more secure by the professionalism of our armed forces
2001	Con	Other	and the success of our long-term military alliances.
2001	Con	Other	We think it is common sense to support institutions that work.
2001	Con	GP	Our armed forces
2001	Con	FAUS	and NATO work very well.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Con	GP	So we will support our armed forces by setting out to match commitments to capabilities, by making it a priority to achieve the armed forces' full Manning levels and by opposing political correctness.
2001	Con	ISOL	We will exempt the armed forces from the European Convention on Human Rights, just as France, Spain, Portugal and others have done.
2001	Con	GP	We will seek greater flexibility to deal with unplanned commitments and to reduce overstretch.
2001	Con	FAUS	Conservatives have always supported stronger European defence co-operation, but always inside NATO. We will not participate in a structure outside NATO, but will insist instead that any European initiative is under the NATO umbrella.
2001	Con	FAUS	We will also end this Government's equivocation over the development by the US of ballistic missile defences. We believe our close ally deserves our support in countering new threats from rogue states and terrorists equipped with weapons of mass destruction. We will take a lead in building support for ballistic missile defence against threats to Europe and America.
2001	Con	GP	We remain fully committed to Britain's independent nuclear deterrent.
2001	Con	TL (dev)	Playing our part in world leadership means playing our part in helping the development of other countries.
2001	Con	TL (dev)	We will work towards the UN aid target of 0.7% of GNP.
2001	Con	TL (dev)	We will do what we can to encourage responsible behaviour by aid recipients, by focusing on good governance, and by strengthening civil society,
2001	Con	GLTS	free markets,
2001	Con	LI	the rule of law



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Con	TL (eco)	and anti-corruption measures.
2001	Con	TL (dev)	We will increase the involvement of charities and the voluntary sector. We will double the proportion of our aid budget spent through aid charities, as they are often better placed than governments to relieve suffering. We will also establish a central information service, 'Aid Direct', that will build strong direct links between aid donors and recipients.
2001	Con	RPEU (scep)	In particular, we are calling for the EU to set its house in order. Unless the Commission reforms its management, we will propose a treaty amendment allowing member states to deliver aid bilaterally instead.
2001	Con	TL (eco)	We will press for more effective debt relief,
2001	Con	TL	action on HIV/AIDS
2001	Con	GP	and conflict prevention and resolution.
2001	Con	LI	We will appoint an Envoy for Religious Freedom.
2001	Con	LI	Conservatives will build on Britain's strengths, so Britain can be a force for good.
2001	Con	GLTS	Britain has prospered when trade has been free. We will lead the campaign for a trans-Atlantic free trade area, encompassing the EU and NAFTA. This is a step towards our vision of global free trade by 2020. Britain has an unrivalled diplomatic service. We will strengthen it further by creating a new Foreign, Commonwealth and Trade Office to bring diplomacy and free trade together, giving renewed impetus to trade and commerce.
2001	Con	LC	The Commonwealth has huge potential - as a force for stability, for promoting the rule of law, democracy and the open economy, and potentially as a means of focusing UK aid. We will consult with our partners on implementing many of the recommendations of the Commonwealth Commission.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Con	GP	We will use Britain's influence in the world for peace and stability, whether in Kashmir or Cyprus or the Middle East.
2001	Con	Other	Britain has vast global reach. In a world where geography matters less, Britain is not on the periphery of anything. Uniquely, we have a central place in the EU, NATO, the Commonwealth and the UN. A Conservative government will be outward-looking, using our influence to the full.
2001	Lab	GLTS	Europe to have the most competitive knowledge-based economies in the world,
2001	Lab	RPEU	as British ideas lead a reformed and enlarged Europe.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	Delivering Kyoto
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	and international development targets,
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	as we help tackle climate change
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	and global poverty.
2001	Lab	GLTS	Lead economic reform in Europe.
2001	Lab	GLTS	Work for the re-start of world trade talks.
2001	Lab	GP	Strong, effective and responsive armed forces.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	Raise international aid towards the UN target.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	Be the first country to introduce greenhouse gas trading to cut pollution.
2001	Lab	RPEU	a leading player in Europe
2001	Lab	FAUS	our alliance with the USA strengthened,
2001	Lab	Other	using our global connections to help Britain
2001	Lab	TL	and tackle global problems.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Lab	RPEU	Unlike the Conservatives, we see Europe as an opportunity not a threat. Because we participate fully, we are able to work with our partners to shape an EU agenda that advances our national interests.
2001	Lab	RPEU (scep)	We will put democratically elected national governments in the driving seat of EU policy.
2001	Lab	GLTS	Our ten-year goal is to work with our partners for Europe to have the most competitive knowledge-based economies in the world.
2001	Lab	RPEU (scep)	We hold to our promise: no membership of the single currency without the consent of the British people in a referendum.
2001	Lab	GP	Britain has some of the best armed forces in the world. With Labour, they are being developed to meet the challenges of the post-Cold War world.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour is committed to lead the development of a comprehensive agenda for poverty reduction and sustainable development. We want to mobilise the international community to deliver the International Development Targets,
2001	Lab	TL (eco)	generate growth and equity in developing countries, and help them benefit from global economic integration.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	We are convinced of the science of global warming. We pledge to meet tough national targets for environmental protection, and we will work at international level to halt and reverse climate change.
2001	Lab	RPEU	We have spent 50 years on the margins; it is time to make the most of our membership.
2001	Lab	RPEU	In the last four years we have seen the benefits of engagement.
2001	Lab	RPEU (scep)	Our rebate has been protected and our contributions are falling to similar levels as France and Italy.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Lab	RPEU	The Labour model of defence co-operation - giving Europe the option to act where NATO chooses not to- has won through.
2001	Lab	GLTS	Economic reform is now helping the European economy.
2001	Lab	RPEU (scep)	The veto on crucial issues of national sovereignty, such as tax, is safe.
2001	Lab	RPEU	All this happened only because Labour had the strength to get involved, argue for its ideas, and persuade others to follow us.
2001	Lab	RPEU	Labour believes that Europe brings benefits for Britain, and a Europe reformed by British ideas, working with our MEPs, will be even better for Britain.
2001	Lab	RPEU (scep)	Together with virtually all other European countries we do not support a United States of Europe.
2001	Lab	RPEU	But we do believe a Europe made up of nation states and offering a unique blend of inter-governmental co-operation where possible and integration where necessary, can be a major force for good - for its own members and in the wider world.

We want to take Europe forward, to meet British needs

2001	Lab	GLTS	Britain has secured a shift in economic policy in Europe - away from harmonisation of rules and towards a system based on dynamic markets allied to comparison and promotion of best practice.
2001	Lab	GLTS	to deliver more choice and lower prices through liberalisation of financial services and utilities; to promote business development with a common EU patent and cuts in red tape; to develop our common research effort in frontier technologies like bioscience; to cut delays and fares by establishing an integrated Air Traffic Control system for Europe;

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Lab	Other	and to develop effective labour market policy to tackle unemployment in dialogue with the social partners.
2001	Lab	RPEU (scep)	We will keep the veto on vital matters of national sovereignty, such as tax and border controls.
2001	Lab	GLTS	Our vision is of an open European economy. That requires a genuine single market, in an open world trading system.
2001	Lab	RPEU	Labour is pledged to do all it can to enable the first group of applicant countries to join in time to take part in the next European Parliamentary elections in 2004.
2001	Lab	RPEU	It is vital we ratify the Treaty of Nice which is essential to enlargement; Labour in government will do so.
2001	Lab	RPEU	Our argument is that if Britain is stronger in Europe, it will be stronger in the rest of the world.
2001	Lab	Other	We reject the view of those who say we must choose between Europe and the USA.
2001	Lab	FAUS	We shall remain the USA's firm ally and friend
2001	Lab	RPEU	but we are not going to turn our backs on Europe.
2001	Lab	TL	The USA and Europe account for ten per cent of world population but 60 per cent of global GDP; working together we can tackle many problems and spread the benefits of freedom, peace and prosperity.
2001	Lab	FAUS	Britain's national security is based on the mutual support that comes from membership of NATO. That will not change.
2001	Lab	GP	we have a global responsibility to play our part in reducing international conflict,
2001	Lab	TL (arms)	controlling the spread of weapons of mass destruction
2001	Lab	SQP	and contributing to international peace-keeping and peace-making operations.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Lab	GP	Our armed forces are the best in the world at fighting if they have to, and keeping the peace where they can.
2001	Lab	GP	Labour is committed to investing more in real terms in our armed services over the next three years, the first year-on-year real increase in funds for over a decade.
2001	Lab	GP	We need more mobile and more flexible armed forces, with the ability to project force at distance and speed, to work closely with other nations and international bodies, and to fight and keep the peace. We have shown what this means in practice in Kosovo and Sierra Leone, and our servicemen and women have responded magnificently. We are determined to maximise resources for frontline use by disposing of surplus spares and promoting smart procurement and efficiency savings.
2001	Lab	GP	The European Defence Initiative is an important part of our defence policy.
2001	Lab	GP	We support Trident, Britain's minimum nuclear deterrent.
2001	Lab	TL (arms)	The Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty commits us to work for the global elimination of nuclear weapons. We are enthusiastic signatories to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, whose coming into force will impede nuclear proliferation, and we want to see the USA and Russia continue to reduce their nuclear stockpiles.
2001	Lab	TL (arms)	We recognise the new dangers posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the need to combat them.
2001	Lab	TL (arms)	We will seek effective inspections against the development of chemical and biological weapons. We will encourage the US to consult closely with NATO allies on its ideas for missile defence, and to pursue dialogue with Russia on a new framework for strategic arms control that will encourage further cuts in nuclear weapons.
2001	Lab	TL (arms)	The UK has introduced the most open report on arms exports of any European nation and has led the EU to adopt a code of conduct on arms sales. Labour will lead efforts to control the trade in

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			small arms, and work for a comprehensive action plan at this year's UN conference on small arms, including an international arms surrender fund to provide development aid in exchange for firearms. We will legislate to modernise the regulation of arms exports, with a licensing system to control the activities of arms brokers and traffickers wherever they are located. We will work with EU applicant countries to strengthen their capacity to control legal and illicit arms transfers.
2001	Lab	Other	Britain belongs to a unique range of influential global organisations, giving us responsibilities and opportunities.
2001	Lab	Other	Labour will stand up for Britain.
2001	Lab	SQP	At the UN, where we support a more modern and representative Security Council, with more effective peace-keeping.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	At the Group of 7 leading industrialised countries, where we will stay at the forefront of efforts to promote development.
2001	Lab	LC	In the Commonwealth, where we will work to promote human rights and bridge the digital divide.
2001	Lab	GLTS	We will argue for an early, comprehensive world trade round, to the benefit of industrialised and developing countries alike. The World Trade Organisation must be reformed, not rejected. We will support fairer terms of trade for developing countries, and a reduction in protectionism in the developed world in areas such as agriculture. We will continue to help developing countries exercise their rights within the WTO.
2001	Lab	TL (eco)	We support the promotion of higher labour standards around the world, as well as respect for the environment, as we expand world trade. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the place to set labour standards, but we believe there should be closer co-operation between the ILO and WTO through the creation of a joint standing forum of the two organisations.
2001	Lab	Li	We are committed to encouraging universal observance of human rights.
2001	Lab	LI	Labour will be a friend of those denied human rights and a supporter of steps to strengthen them.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	Lab	LI	Labour has played a leading role in bringing war criminals, notably from former Yugoslavia, to justice, and in establishing a permanent court to try war crimes. We will work to make the International Criminal Court a reality, with Britain as one of its first members.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	In 1997 Labour pledged to give new priority to tackling global poverty.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	Four years on, there have been real achievements - a cabinet minister heads an internationally respected department, the aid budget has been substantially raised, and tied aid abolished. Britain is playing a leading world role on debt relief, education, HIV/AIDS, and in responding to humanitarian disasters. With strong UK leadership, the international development effort is now increasingly focused on poverty reduction.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	This is morally right, but also in our interest.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	There can be no secure future for any of us unless we promote greater global social justice
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour will continue to focus Britain's development effort on the achievement of the international development targets by 2015 - including halving the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty, reducing child and infant mortality by two-thirds, primary education for all children, and sustainable development plans in every country.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	With Labour the aid budget will rise to 0.33 per cent of GNP by 2003-04, reaching £3.6 billion - a 45 per cent increase in real terms since 1997 level. We remain committed to the UN target of 0.7 per cent of national income devoted to development and will make further substantial increases over the next Parliament. We remain committed to our bill, blocked by the Tories, to consolidate our poverty-focused approach to development.
2001	Lab	TL	We are using this aid to support political and economic reform in developing countries.
2001	Lab	TL (eco)	Our aid is an investment to help countries put in place policies to raise the growth rate with greater equity, crack down on corruption,



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2001	Lab	LI	promote human rights, including for women and girls, and develop effective governance and democracy.
2001	Lab	TL (eco)	We will legislate to toughen controls over UK nationals who commit offences of corruption abroad.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour will champion increased effectiveness and a stronger focus on poverty reduction within international institutions - particularly the EU, but also the World Bank, IMF, UN and Commonwealth - with full support for poverty reduction strategies where they genuinely prioritise poverty reduction. We are committed to international action to put the needs of children at the centre of these strategies.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	By 2006 we want to raise to 70 per cent the proportion of EU aid going to low income countries, and work with the Commission, Parliament and other governments to strengthen the EU's development effort.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour has led internationally on debt relief, providing 100 per cent relief for countries committed to spending the proceeds on poverty-reduction. We will work to help more of the heavily indebted poor countries qualify for debt relief where this benefits the poor. And we will work to prevent new debt burdens through international agreement not to give export credits for excessive military spending or prestige projects.
2001	Lab	TL	Education has a special place for Labour. We will increase further our support for quality primary education for all, particularly for girls. Imfundo project, part of an £800 million education programme, will bring together public and private sector commitment to use IT to ensure effective teacher training and education management. We will give top priority to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, which is inflicting massive human and economic costs across the developing world. We will work for the creation of a global health fund to make essential drugs and commodities more accessible to the poor, focusing on TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS. This will complement our

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			existing support for the development of basic healthcare systems, and our new tax credits to incentivise research by the drug companies into the diseases of poverty.
2001	Lab	TL (eco)	Our aim is to shape globalisation so that it works better for the world's poor.
2001	Lab	TL (eco)	We will promote socially responsible business practice through advisory services on codes of social responsibility, the ethical trading initiative, the Export Credit Guarantee Department's new code of business principles, the Commonwealth Development Corporation's partnership with the private sector, and our initiatives to encourage private investment in infrastructure.
2001	Lab	TL	Labour is committed to strengthening our partnership for development with Africa. We will work with reforming governments, international institutions, the private sector and civil society in support of nationally owned development strategies. We will also redouble our efforts to prevent and resolve violent conflicts in Africa, using our new Africa conflict fund to provide help for security sector reform, demilitarisation programmes and tighter controls over small arms.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	We are convinced by the scientific evidence of climate change - and convinced that now is the time to act. We need action at local, national and international level if we are to preserve the stability of our natural environment over the next 50 years. The principle of mutual responsibility that governs our approach to social problems also applies to environmental issues.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	We must make substantial changes in the way we work and live to safeguard all our futures. The UK played a leading role in the Kyoto conference.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	We are determined to play a constructive role at the 'Rio plus 10' meeting in South Africa next year.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	We are one of the few countries to have met our 1992 obligations to hold greenhouse gases in 2000 below their 1990 levels. In 1997 we set a target of reducing CO2 emissions by 20 per cent by 2010. We will meet our obligations arising from the Kyoto protocol and have set out a detailed strategy to achieve more - a 23 per cent cut in greenhouse gases by 2010. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has said the UK will need to cut CO2 production by 60 per cent by

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			2050, so we need to press ahead with a radical agenda for the development of low carbon economic growth, embodied in our £700 million commitment to renewable energy.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	Once the system is established here we will seek to extend it around the world.
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	We cannot protect the environment without addressing the development needs of the poor, and poverty reduction depends on safeguarding natural resources on which poor people depend.
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will continue to provide leadership abroad, working for international agreement on climate change, improved integration of the environment in European policies and a strong global environment agency built around the current UN environment programme. We will work to improve marine and forest conservation overseas and in the UK.
2001	Lab	RPEU	by taking a lead in Europe, standing up for Britain's rights and reforming Europe to promote jobs and deepen democracy
2001	Lab	GP	by supporting our armed forces, making sure our troops are always available and effective in times of crisis
2001	Lab	TL (enviro)	by working to tackle global climate change, meeting our own tough targets and pushing other countries to meet theirs
2001	Lab	TL (dev)	by leading the fight against global poverty, with increased aid, better spent
2001	Lab	Other	Britain can be pivotal to world affairs, using our alliances to advance our interests and values. The key is to use our strengths of history and geography to engage with other countries, not retreat. That's Labour's promise
2001	LibD	RPEU	By promoting enterprise, protecting the environment and fighting discrimination, the EU brings enormous benefits to Britain
2001	LibD	RPEU	Enlargement of the EU to include the emerging democracies of central and eastern Europe

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	LibD	RPEU (scep)	Reaching agreement on a constitutional settlement for Europe to define and limit the powers of the EU
2001	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats are firm supporters of the European Union, but as critical members of the European family, we are also firm on its failings. We believe that the EU offers the best means of promoting Britain's interests in Europe and in the wider world.
2001	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats are determined that Britain should lead this reform.
2001	LibD	RPEU (scep)	Maintain the veto in areas of vital interest to the UK. We favour the application of majority voting in the Council where necessary to ensure that the EU functions effectively. But we will maintain a veto on the constitution, defence, own resources, budgetary and tax matters and regulations on pay and social security.
2001	LibD	RPEU	Support a European Common Foreign and Security Policy that includes a significant defence capability consistent with our membership of NATO and other international institutions.
2001	LibD	RPEU	Push for early enlargement of the EU
2001	LibD	LI	We will seek to ensure that there is no further slippage in accession schedules dependent upon meeting the Copenhagen criteria such as guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and human rights.
2001	LibD	Other	Britain can achieve far more by working with others than working alone. An internationalist approach is the best way to protect our freedom and our interests.
2001	LibD	TL	We will work to build effective international and regional organisations to promote peace and freedom throughout the world, combat poverty and disease and tackle global environmental problems.
2001	LibD	LI	Promote a foreign policy based on democracy, human rights and good governance

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2001	LibD	TL	Seek to make international institutions more able to address global security, trade and environmental issues
2001	LibD	GP	Resist further erosion of Britain's defence capability
2001	LibD	Other	while co-operating more closely with the country's allies
2001	LibD	Other	Britain stands at the centre of a web of global institutions. Our membership of the UN Security Council, the Commonwealth, the EU, NATO, and other global bodies gives Britain a key role in world affairs. But with power comes responsibility.
2001	LibD	LI	We must not turn a blind eye to injustice nor support authoritarian regimes which oppress their people and threaten world stability. Britain's influence should be used to fight for human rights
2001	LibD	SQP	and equitable and peaceful relationships between nations.
2001	LibD	LI	The Liberal Democrat approach puts democratic values, human rights and good governance at the top of the foreign policy agenda.
2001	LibD	TL (arms)	End subsidies for arms sold to foreign regimes. We will put an end to the use of Export Credit Guarantees to support arms exports. We will establish a Parliamentary Arms Export Committee to monitor arms exports and scrutinise individual licence applications. We will require arms brokers to register under a Code of Conduct, and revoke the licences of those who break the code.
2001	LibD	LI	Take account of human rights and development needs in government policy. We will audit relevant government departments to ensure that policies on issues such as aid, arms sales and credit guarantees conform to the standards we have set.
2001	LibD	GP	Give priority to conflict prevention. It should focus on traditional threats to security but also the consequences of environmental degradation, resource depletion, volatile markets and unfair trade. Preventive diplomacy will be given a higher priority in the budgets of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence.

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2001	LibD	TL	Continue the fight against slave labour. We will co-operate with international bodies like the International Labour Organisation to stamp out slavery.
2001	LibD	LI	Maintain funding for the BBC World Service and the British Council. We will ensure that these two organisations, which have a vital role in spreading the values of freedom and democracy, receive proper funding.
2001	LibD	TL	We favour greater international co-operation to make the world a safer place
2001	LibD	LI	and to uphold human rights in other countries
2001	LibD	SQP	Seek to strengthen the powers of the UN.
2001	LibD	SQP	We propose that the Secretary General conducts an audit to determine outstanding obligations and the action needed to comply with them.
2001	LibD	SQP	Ensure that the United Nations has the resources to act. We will promote the establishment of a Staff College based in Britain to train UN peacekeepers. We also advocate the formation of a UN Rapid Reaction Disaster Task Force to tackle both man-made and natural disasters.
2001	LibD	LC	Work with Britain's partners in the Commonwealth to make it more effective in promoting conflict resolution, good governance and democratic values.
2001	LibD	LI	Support the International Criminal Court.
2001	LibD	LI	We will press opponents of the court to recognise its authority.
2001	LibD	GP	British armed forces rightly enjoy the respect of the world. It is essential to preserve that reputation.
2001	LibD	GP	Britain's capabilities must continue to adapt to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
2001	LibD	GP	Resist further erosion of our defence capability. We will maintain the current level of spending and resist any further reductions.

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2001	LibD	GP	Promote flexibility, mobility, rapid deployment and joint operations as the basis of Britain's defence policy, to enable the UK to honour Britain's commitments to the EU, NATO, the Commonwealth and the UN.
2001	LibD	TL (arms)	Work for the elimination worldwide of all nuclear weapons. We will urge a new round of multilateral arms reduction talks,
2001	LibD	GP	but will retain the UK's minimum nuclear deterrent for the foreseeable future.
2001	LibD	TL (arms)	Oppose the National Missile Defence System (NMD).
2001	LibD	TL (arms)	Put in place a moratorium on the use of Depleted Uranium Shells until there is clear evidence regarding the health risks involved.
2001	LibD	TL (eco)	We will press for a fairer global trading system, and do more to assist poor nations.
2001	LibD	TL (dev)	We advocate effective aid policies to address the problems of developing countries and promote democracy and good governance.
2001	LibD	GLTS	Promote genuine liberal trade.
2001	LibD	TL (enviro)	We will work to reform the WTO so that environmental objectives and principles are fully integrated into its activities and poorer countries are helped to participate fully within it.
2001	LibD	TL (eco)	Encourage fair competition. We would press for a global competition authority within the WTO to encourage co-ordination of the anti-monopoly activities of individual nations to tackle the growing concentration of corporate monopoly power more effectively. We want world-wide agreement to reduce subsidies, common in areas such as fossil fuel production, agriculture, forestry and fisheries: this would encourage trade, open markets to poorer countries' exports and reduce environmental damage.
2001	LibD	TL (dev)	Honour the UK's commitment to meet the UN target of increasing overseas aid to 0.7% over the next ten years. We support the moves already made by the British Government to reduce the debts

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			of the poorest countries. But Britain could lead more rapid action on debt relief by bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
2001	LibD	TL (dev)	End links between aid and trade.
2001	LibD	TL (dev)	We will subject all aid programmes to thorough assessment for their environmental, social and human rights consequences.
2001	LibD	TL	Direct aid towards women.
2001	LibD	TL	All aid packages should address gender inequality with a high priority for family planning and maternal health services.
2001	LibD	TL	Step up the fight against HIV/AIDS.
2001	LibD	TL	We will increase backing for the development of an AIDS vaccine.
2001	LibD	TL	Working with bodies such as the churches, we will support large-scale AIDS/HIV education programmes and press for mother-to-child AIDS treatment drugs to be made available cheaply.
2001	LibD	TL	Promote universal primary education.
2001	LibD	TL	We will spearhead initiatives to increase the resources for basic education in developing countries. In return for financial support recipient countries should be obliged to reduce expenditure on arms.
2001	LibD	TL (eco)	Implement the OECD convention on bribery. We will allow UK registered companies to be prosecuted for bribery offences committed overseas.
2001	LibD	TL (arms)	Stop using taxpayers' money to support the arms trade by ending subsidies for arms sold to foreign regimes.
2001	LibD	TL (enviro)	We will place Britain at the forefront of climate change negotiations, pressing other nations to ratify and implement the 1997 Kyoto protocol by the Rio+10 world summit in mid 2002. We will



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			seek to extend its terms and targets further. We will ensure that Britain achieves its target well before the deadline, and establishes a new target of a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2010.
2001	LibD	TL (enviro)	Introduce Stronger Environmental Objectives into the Common Agricultural Policy, lending and investment policies of the IMF, World Bank and regional development banks.
2001	LibD	TL (enviro)	We will ensure that environmental and social sustainability is a prime objective of aid and technology transfer policies.
2001	LibD	TL (enviro)	We want a substantial increase in resources for the UN Environment Programme and for the implementation of environmental agreements. We also advocate a UN Economic and Environmental Security Council for Sustainability.
2005	Con	Other	Britain plays a unique role in the world. We are the only nation that is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, a net contributor to the European Union, a member of the G8, at the centre of the Commonwealth family of nations and a leading member of NATO.
2005	Con	GLTS	We are a global trading nation with interests in every continent. As the world's fourth largest economy, we have the potential to be a powerful force for good.
2005	Con	GP	These durable strengths allow Britain to defend our interests
2005	Con	LI	and promote our values across the globe.
2005	Con	LI	As a country, we have been in the vanguard of freedom's advance, a friend to the growth of democracy, an advocate of the rule of law, a defender of the oppressed
2005	Con	GP	and a robust protector of our people's security.
2005	Con	FAUS	A Conservative Government will strengthen our Armed Forces within NATO by spending £2.7 billion more than Labour on the front line by 2007-08.

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2005	Con	GP	We will make the Army stronger. A Conservative Government will preserve the regiments Labour would abolish and improve the supply and procurement of weaponry.
2005	Con	GP	We will save warships Mr Blair would scrap.
2005	Con	FAUS	A Conservative Government will support European co-operation on defence but we strongly believe that such co-operation should take place within the framework of NATO.
2005	Con	GP	So we believe that Britain must remain committed to rebuilding Iraq and allowing democracy to take hold
2005	Con	GP	And a Conservative Government will work to achieve peace in the Middle East based on the principle of Israel secure within its borders and a viable Palestinian state.
2005	Con	RPEU (scep)	Conservatives support the cause of reform in Europe and we will co-operate with all those who wish to see the EU evolve in a more flexible, liberal and decentralised direction. We oppose the EU Constitution and would give the British people the chance to reject its provisions in a referendum within six months of the General Election. We also oppose giving up the valuable freedom which control of our own currency gives us. We will not join the Euro.
2005	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will ensure that Britain once again leads the fight for a deregulated Europe by negotiating the restoration of our opt-out from the Social Chapter.
2005	Con	ISOL	And, because fisheries would be better administered at the national level, we will negotiate to restore national and local control over British fishing grounds. We are determined to ensure national control in this area.
2005	Con	RPEU	We will also build on the success of enlargement, making Europe more diverse by working to bring in more nations, including Turkey. We value Britain's membership of the European Union, but our horizons extend much further.
2005	Con	TL (dev)	A key element of British foreign policy under a Conservative Government will be fighting world poverty. We will support further action on debt relief and will work to meet the UN target of

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			spending 0.7 per cent of national income on overseas aid by 2013. We believe that British aid programmes are among the best in the world, so we will negotiate to increase British national control over our international aid spending.
2005	Con	GLTS	Above all, we recognise that there is a vital thread that links open markets, free trade, property rights, the rule of law, democracy, economic development and social progress. We will use our global influence to champion these principles in the interests of the developing world.
2005	Con	ISOL	No to the Euro and EU Constitution
2005	Con	TL (dev)	More and better aid to tackle global poverty
2005	Con	GP	Stronger Armed Forces
2005	Con	FAUS	Keeping NATO at the heart of our foreign policy
2005	Lab	Other	So we will pursue British interests by working with our allies to make the world a safer, fairer place.
2005	Lab	RPEU	This means reforming Europe.
2005	Lab	GP	It means fighting terrorism
2005	Lab	TL (arms)	and stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction.
2005	Lab	GP	It means modernising our armed forces.
2005	Lab	TL	And it means using our leading role in the G8, EU, the Commonwealth and UN to promote global action on climate change and poverty.
2005	Lab	LI	The best defence of our security at home is the spread of liberty and justice overseas.
2005	Lab	RPEU	In a third term we will secure Britain's place in the EU
2005	Lab	Other	and at the heart of international decision-making.

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2005	Lab	SQP	We will always uphold the rule of international law.
2005	Lab	RPEU	We are proud of Britain's EU membership and of the strong position Britain has achieved within Europe.
2005	Lab	RPEU	Since 1997 we have gone from marginal players, often ignored, to leaders in the European Union. Working hard with Labour MEPs, we are determined to remain leaders. Outside the EU, or on its margins, we would unquestionably be weaker and more vulnerable.
2005	Lab	RPEU (scep)	that Britain keeps control of key national interests like foreign policy, taxation, social security and defence.
2005	Lab	RPEU	It is a good treaty for Britain and for the new Europe.
2005	Lab	RPEU	We will put it to the British people in a referendum and campaign whole-heartedly for a 'Yes' vote to keep Britain a leading nation in Europe.
2005	Lab	RPEU	We will also work to reform Europe. During Britain's EU presidency this year, we will work to promote economic reform, bear down on regulation; make progress in the Doha development trade round; bring closer EU membership for Turkey, the Balkans and Eastern Europe; and improve the focus and quality of EU aid so it better helps the poorest countries.
2005	Lab	RPEU	We will continue to lead European defence cooperation. We will build stronger EU defence capabilities,
2005	Lab	FAUS	in harmony with NATO – the cornerstone of our defence policy –
2005	Lab	GP	without compromising our national ability to act independently.
2005	Lab	RPEU	We will ensure the new EU battle groups are equipped and organised to act quickly to save lives in humanitarian crises.
2005	Lab	RPEU (scep)	On the euro, we maintain our common-sense policy.

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2005	Lab	RPEU (scep)	If the Government were to recommend joining, it would be put to a vote in Parliament and a referendum of the British people.
2005	Lab	GLTS	We will continue to provide effective support to British businesses and trade unions abroad,
2005	Lab	Other	and we will continue to improve our ability to respond quickly to international crises and disasters which affect our citizens.
2005	Lab	GP	We have worked closely with the US and other nations to combat the threat of terrorism in Afghanistan and in Iraq.
2005	Lab	TL (arms)	We have worked with the US to ensure that Libya has given up its WMD, and we will continue with France and Germany to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons. In North Korea, we will support the multilateral approach of the Six Parties talks.
2005	Lab	GP	We will continue to strongly support the peace process between India and Pakistan, and back moves to resolve the long-running dispute over Kashmir.
2005	Lab	TL (arms)	And we will work to put an end to the international network of trade in weapons of mass destruction. Labour has already introduced a strict regime to control the export of conventional weapons, and we led moves for EU-wide measures. We will work actively to secure an international treaty on the arms trade.
2005	Lab	GP	We need to be tough on terrorism and its causes.
2005	Lab	GP	So we cannot sit back and hope that we will be unaffected. It is right that we do everything in our power to disrupt terrorist networks, and to challenge the conditions that help terrorism to breed.
2005	Lab	LI	But we should all now unite to support the fledgling democracy in Iraq.
2005	Lab	SQP	British troops should remain in Iraq under a United Nations mandate as long as the democratically elected government there wants them.
2005	Lab	Other	They will continue to train Iraqi security forces to take responsibility for their own future.

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2005	Lab	LI	We welcome the wider process of democratic reform across the Middle East, and we will work with our allies to encourage and promote economic and political change.
2005	Lab	GP	We strongly support the peace process between Israel and Palestine.
2005	Lab	GP	We will work tirelessly to bring about a peace settlement in which a viable and independent state of Palestine lives alongside a safe and secure Israel.
2005	Lab	GP	Britain's armed forces are among the best in the world. They are able to play a key role in advancing our interests and values. We want to keep it that way.
2005	Lab	LI	They are a force for good.
2005	Lab	GP	but when they are committed they will have the investment, strategy, training and preparation they need. That is one reason we have given the armed forces the biggest sustained increase in funding since the end of the Cold War.
2005	Lab	GP	We will continue with the investment and reform that make our fighting forces the most flexible and effective in the world.
2005	Lab	GP	We are also committed to retaining the independent nuclear deterrent
2005	Lab	TL (arms)	and we will continue to work, both bilaterally and through the UN, to urge states not yet party to non-proliferation treaties, notably the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to join.
2005	Lab	SQP	We support the reform of the Security Council so it becomes more representative and has a stronger focus on conflict prevention.
2005	Lab	SQP	We support the recommendation of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel for a Peace-building Commission to assist countries emerging from conflict and to develop mechanisms to enhance conflict prevention
2005	Lab	TL	We will press for more radical reform of the UN humanitarian system, so it is better equipped to save lives.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2005	Lab	TL	We will also press for reform of the World Bank and IMF to improve transparency, give more say to developing countries and, with the EU better focus their efforts on the poorest countries, particularly in Africa.
2005	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will continue to lead internationally on climate change, and to strive for wider acceptance of the science and the steps needed to combat the problem. We will look beyond Kyoto and promote an international dialogue to reach agreement on the long-term goals and action needed to stabilise the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We will also work for effective international action to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
2005	Lab	TL (enviro)	The UK has already met its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. We remain committed to achieving a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions on 1990 levels by 2010, and our review of progress this summer will show us how to get back on track. A 60 per cent reduction by 2050 remains necessary and achievable.
2005	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will continue to promote and develop renewable energy sources, to seek high standards of energy efficiency in the public and private sectors, and to support emissions trading in Europe and beyond.
2005	Lab	TL (dev)	Secondly, we will focus on Africa and the global fight against poverty.
2005	Lab	TL (dev)	We have more than doubled aid since 1997. We have cancelled the debts of the poorest countries and are now pushing others to follow our lead and offer 100 per cent debt relief for the poorest. We are proud to have established a Department for International Development, with a clear mission to reduce poverty. Now, for the first time ever the UK has a clear timetable – 2013 – for achieving the UN target of 0.7 per cent of national income devoted to development. Globally we are pressing for a doubling of aid backed by getting international agreement to an International Finance Facility as supported by the Commission for Africa.

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2005	Lab	TL (eco)	We will work for faster repatriation of stolen assets from UK financial institutions, ratification of the UN Convention on corruption, and more open and accountable reporting of revenues from oil and mining – that so often fuel local conflicts.
2005	Lab	TL	Our commitment is to the people of the developing world; our contract is with their governments for reform. But if poor countries are committed to good governance and poverty reduction we then believe they should be in control of their own policies.
2005	Lab	TL (eco)	We will end the practice of making aid conditional on sensitive economic policy choices, such as trade liberalisation and privatisation.
2005	Lab	TL	In particular, we will press for an international agreement on universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010 and for all people in poor countries to have access to free basic healthcare and education.
2005	Lab	TL (dev)	Our long-term aim is to help lift a billion people out of poverty.
2005	Lab	GLTS	We will press for the conclusion of an ambitious trade deal that will completely open markets to exports from poorer countries;
2005	Lab	TL (eco)	for further reform of rich countries' agricultural subsidies, including the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and a 2010 timetable to end agricultural export subsidies.
2005	Lab	TL (eco)	We do not believe poor countries should be forced to liberalise. We will allow them to sequence their trade reforms, so they can build their capacity to compete globally.
2005	Lab	GP	With Labour, a strong Britain will force international terrorism into retreat
2005	Lab	LI	and help spread democracy and freedom around the world.
2005	Lab	RPEU	We will be leaders in a reformed Europe
2005	Lab	TL (dev)	, and, with others, make significant progress towards raising a billion people out of extreme poverty.



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2005	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will fight for a new global agreement on climate change,
2005	Lab	TL (arms)	an arms trade treaty,
2005	Lab	TL (eco)	and a trade deal that makes trade work for the many, not just the few.
2005	Lab	GP	Our armed forces will continue to be the best in the world.
2005	LibD	Other	Britain, as a member of the G8, the Security Council of the United Nations, the European Union, NATO and the Commonwealth, has a unique opportunity to be a force for good in the world. British practice has been one of operating through multilateral institutions – and experience shows that when Britain does this, it provides leadership and influence.
2005	LibD	SQP	We can start by committing ourselves to the reforms of the United Nations set out in the High-Level Panel’s sagacious report.
2005	LibD	GP	We can influence the whole of the Middle East by an unwavering commitment to peace between Israel and the Palestinians.
2005	LibD	TL (dev)	We can sharpen the focus on assistance for the poorest countries in the world through aid, debt relief and trade.
2005	LibD	LI	We can pursue the cause of human rights wherever they are abused and neglected.
2005	LibD	RPEU	“We can truly put ourselves at the heart of Europe and at the heart of its reform
2005	LibD	TL (arms)	We can make sure that British arms exports neither encourage conflict nor assist repression.
2005	LibD	FAUS	We can fashion a new relationship with the United States: a partnership of influence, not one of uncritical subordination.
2005	LibD	LI	We can base foreign policy on liberal values, respect for the rule of law, and human rights.
2005	LibD	Other	“I believe that only in this way can we maximise Britain’s influence, and restore Britain’s reputation.”

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2005	LibD	SQP	Britain must never again support an illegal military intervention.
2005	LibD	Other	But by invading Iraq the Government has imposed on us a moral obligation to work towards a stable, secure and free Iraq.
2005	LibD	Other	We welcome the recent elections. We will seek to strengthen and enlarge Iraqi security forces so that they can assume greater responsibility, include Sunni leaders in the political process,
2005	LibD	TL (dev)	and ensure adequate provision of food, water, sanitation and health care for all the Iraqi people.
2005	LibD	LI	We will support the transition to a fully democratic and legitimate government,
2005	LibD	Other	Britain must work through the United Nations, as a committed member of the EU, and with the US to
2005	LibD	SQP	promote international law,
2005	LibD	LI	democracy and respect for human rights
2005	LibD	TL	We will work to reform the UN and the EU to make them more responsive to international challenges.
2005	LibD	RPEU	. In the modern world, Britain is more prosperous and secure in Europe.
2005	LibD	RPEU	That's our Liberal Democrat vision for a strong Britain in a strong Europe, a powerful voice in the world."
2005	LibD	RPEU	Membership of the EU has been hugely important for British jobs, environmental protection, equality rights, and Britain's place in the world.
2005	LibD	RPEU (scep)	We are therefore clear in our support for the constitution, which we believe is in Britain's interest – but ratification must be subject to a referendum of the British people.
2005	LibD	GP	Britain's armed forces protect the country

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2005	LibD	LI	and are a force for good in the world
2005	LibD	GP	The Government should not be cutting the size of the armed forces while at the same time asking them to take on ever more difficult tasks.
2005	LibD	GP	we will be able to invest more in protecting the welfare of the armed forces, ensuring that they are well-trained and well-equipped.
2005	LibD	Other	We will seek new ways of sharing the military burden, by working with allies through NATO and the EU.
2005	LibD	GP	and British forces must always be able to deal with emergencies at home, such as terrorism or natural disasters.
2005	LibD	TL (arms)	We will press for a new round of multilateral arms reduction talks,
2005	LibD	GP	retaining the UK's current minimum nuclear deterrent for the foreseeable future,
2005	LibD	TL (arms)	until sufficient progress has been made towards the global elimination of such weapons. Arms sales contribute to conflict, so we will establish a cross-party Parliamentary Arms Export Committee to monitor arms exports and scrutinise individual licence applications. We will require arms brokers to register under a code of conduct and revoke the licences of those who break the code. We will support the establishment of an International Arms Trade Treaty.
2005	LibD	TL (enviro)	We will make sure that development assistance, whether delivered from the UK, EU, or multilateral institutions, not only meets the needs of the poor, but does so in ways that contribute to environmental sustainability. This means, in particular, targeting aid on renewable energy, clean water and sustainable agriculture, and increasing market access for green products from the developing world. We will devote resources to protecting biodiversity in developing countries, where many species of rare plants and wildlife are seriously endangered.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2005	LibD	TL (enviro)	Liberal Democrat plans will make sure that Britain achieves its targets from the Kyoto Protocol (the international agreement on the pollution that causes climate change) well before the deadline.
2005	LibD	TL (enviro)	Britain and the EU must take the lead on negotiations for the next set of targets for greenhouse gas emissions. It is vital that we include the US and Australia but we also need to work with developing countries. Our long-term goal is ‘contraction and convergence’ – which means agreeing for every country a sustainable population- related allowance for emissions.
2005	LibD	RPEU	We will work through the EU to promote effective and enforceable international agreements to protect the global environment, such as the Cartagena Protocol (on GM products).
2005	LibD	TL (enviro)	We will support international agreements and activities designed to stop international environmental crime, such as illegal logging or illegal trade in endangered wildlife, and improve customs training to tackle these illegal activities more effectively. We will argue for reforms of the World Trade Organisation, World Bank and International Monetary Fund to make sure that trade and development policies support rather than hinder environmental sustainability.
2005	LibD	TL (dev)	First, we believe that this country has the wealth to help those much poorer than ourselves, and should do so. Second, we believe that we all benefit from achievement of sustainable development in the poorest countries in the world.
2005	LibD	TL (dev)	“This country has never lived up to the promise it made long ago to devote 0.7 per cent of its annual income to aid; it is time that it did.
2005	LibD	TL (dev)	So it is time Britain lived up to its promises, to build the sustainable development to end such poverty once and for all.
2005	LibD	TL (eco)	opening European markets to the products of the poorest countries helps their economies and lifts them out of poverty. Stopping subsidised European food being dumped helps their farmers prosper and grow more.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2005	LibD	TL (dev)	“We need to reform international institutions to make them more responsive to developing country needs; make aid more productive; make trade fairer;
2005	LibD	LI	and take action to promote good governance, the rule of law and human rights.
2005	LibD	TL (dev)	Liberal Democrats are committed to realising a world free from poverty. In order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015 (which include tackling extreme poverty and hunger, providing universal primary education, and combating HIV/ AIDS) the UK needs to provide more effective international assistance. Liberal Democrats will increase British aid spending from 0.35 per cent of Gross National Income today to at least 0.5 per cent by 2007/08, and set out detailed plans for it to reach 0.7 per cent by 2011 at the latest.
2005	LibD	GLTS	Working through the EU and the World Trade Organisation, we will seek to remove the subsidies and tariff barriers that prevent the poorest countries in the world selling their goods on fair terms.
2005	LibD	TL (eco)	We will work to end the dumping of subsidised agricultural exports by developed economies which is wrecking farming in Africa and other parts of the world. We will work to make sure that agreements to liberalise new sectors proceed on a genuinely voluntary basis, without undue pressure on developing countries. We will require companies benefiting from open markets to behave responsibly, and we will promote a new international agreement to encourage investment, particularly in the poorest countries.
2010	Con	GP	A Conservative government will defend our national security and support our brave Armed Forces in everything they do.
2010	Con	Other	We will promote our national interest with an active foreign policy.
2010	Con	RPEU	We will work constructively with the EU
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	but we will not hand over any more areas of power and we will never join the Euro.
2010	Con	TL (dev)	We will honour our aid commitments and make sure this money works for the poorest nations.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Con	Other	This country possesses great assets and advantages –
2010	Con	Other	a permanent seat on the UN Security Council,
2010	Con	FAUS	a leading role in NATO, a strong relationship with the United States
2010	Con	RPEU	a major role in the affairs of the EU
2010	Con	GP	and armed forces that are the envy of the world.
2010	Con	GLTS	We are a global trading nation
2010	Con	Other	and home to the world's pre-eminent language.
2010	Con	GP	We will create a National Security Council to oversee all aspects of our security, chaired by the Prime Minister. We are committed to succeeding in our mission in Afghanistan and will not leave our Forces without the resources they need to fulfil this goal.
2010	Con	GP	We will ensure they get the best.
2010	Con	GP	We understand the severity of the threats that exist and will do all we can to make Britain safe. We will establish a national Security Council to co-ordinate responses to the dangers we face, which will be chaired by the Prime minister.
2010	Con	GP	create a national Security adviser and a new national resilience team for homeland Security;
2010	Con	GP	develop a national Security Strategy and oversee a Strategic Defence and Security review that implements that strategy; and,
2010	Con	GP	establish a new Permanent military Command for homeland Defence and Security to provide a more structured military contribution to homeland security.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Con	GP	Our mission in Afghanistan is vital to our national security. Success in Afghanistan will be achieved when it is a more stable state, able to manage its own security, resist outside interference, and prevent terrorists from using its territory as a safe haven.
2010	Con	GP	We will always ensure our forces have the resources they need to carry out their mission properly,
2010	Con	Other	and we will press other members of NATO to take their fair share of the military burden.
2010	Con	Other	The training of Afghanistan's own security forces is key to the success of the mission, and we will continue to make it a priority.
2010	Con	GP	Our Strategic Defence and Security review will ensure that resources for our armed forces are matched to our foreign policy requirements. We support the decision to renew Britain's submarine-based nuclear deterrent, based on the Trident missile system.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will release spending on unnecessary and bureaucratic EU defence initiatives
2010	Con	GP	and spend the money on our armed forces.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	As part of that process, we will re-evaluate our position with the European Defence Agency.
2010	Con	Other	We have great national assets and advantages to help us make the most of the opportunities we face and to deal with challenges. We will engage positively with the world to deepen alliances and build new partnerships
2010	Con	TL	We will help reform international institutions, help those in need,
2010	Con	TL (enviro)	and play our part in tackling climate change
2010	Con	TL (arms)	and the proliferation of military nuclear technology.
2010	Con	Other	A Conservative government's approach to foreign affairs will be based on liberal Conservative principles.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Con	LI	Liberal, because Britain must be open and engaged with the world, supporting human rights and championing the cause of democracy and the rule of law at every opportunity.
2010	Con	Other	But Conservative, because our policy must be hard-headed and practical, dealing with the world as it is and not as we wish it were.
2010	Con	LI	Our approach to foreign affairs is based on a belief in freedom, human rights and democracy.
2010	Con	Other	We are sceptical about grand utopian schemes to remake the world.
2010	Con	LI	We will work patiently with the grain of other societies, but we will always support liberal values because they provide the foundations for stability and prosperity.
2010	Con	Other	Protecting Britain's enlightened national interest requires global engagement.
2010	Con	LI	We will be safer if our values are strongly upheld and widely respected in the world.
2010	Con	Other	Our national identity is bound up in our historic global role as an outward-looking nation,
2010	Con	TL (dev)	giving generously to developing countries,
2010	Con	LI	and providing a safe haven to genuine refugees.
2010	Con	LI	It is not in our character to have a foreign policy without a conscience
2010	Con	TL (dev)	or to turn our back on the millions who live in poverty and conflict.
2010	Con	Other	A Conservative government will champion a distinctive British foreign policy. We will renew and reinforce our engagement with the rest of the world and build up British influence by deepening our alliances beyond Europe and the United States, not only diplomatically but in culture, education, commerce and security.
2010	Con	LI	A Conservative government will always speak up for freedom and human rights. Torture is unacceptable and abhorrent, and we will never condone it.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Con	LI	We will support humanitarian intervention when it is practical and necessary,
2010	Con	GP	while working with other countries to prevent conflict arising.
2010	Con	TL	Promoting Britain's interests and values means developing and strengthening our alliances and reforming international institutions.
2010	Con	Other	work to establish a new special relationship with India, the world's largest democracy;
2010	Con	LI	seek closer engagement with China while standing firm on human rights;
2010	Con	Other	elevate our relationships with many friendly nations, including in the Middle East, as well as North Africa, South Asia and Latin America;
2010	Con	RPEU	press to keep the EU's doors open to those countries, including Turkey, that wish to join, conditional on the rigorous application of the accession criteria;
2010	Con	TL	support permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council for Japan, India, Germany, Brazil and African representation; and,
2010	Con	LC	strengthen the Commonwealth as a focus for promoting democratic values and development.
2010	Con	GP	We will work with our allies across the world to prevent conflict and secure peace.
2010	Con	FAUS	We will maintain a strong, close and frank relationship with the United States.
2010	Con	RPEU	We will work closely with other European countries to establish a common approach to common problems, such as climate change.
2010	Con	FAUS	We will be committed to NATO as the ultimate guarantor of Europe's security.
2010	Con	GP	work towards greater stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan; support concerted international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon;

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			<p>support a two-state solution to the middle east Peace Process;</p> <p>promote stability in the Western Balkans;</p> <p>always be ready to assist Cypriots in their efforts to agree a just, balanced and lasting settlement to reunite their island; and,</p>
2010	Con	TL (arms)	play our part in efforts to make the world safer from the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation.
2010	Con	RPEU	We will be positive members of the European Union
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	but we are clear that there should be no further extension of the EU's power over the UK without the British people's consent. We will ensure that by law no future government can hand over areas of power to the EU or join the Euro without a referendum of the British people. We will work to bring back key powers over legal rights, criminal justice and social and employment legislation to the UK.
2010	Con	RPEU	A Conservative government will play an active and energetic role in the European Union to advance these causes.
2010	Con	GLTS	We will stand for open markets, and a strong transatlantic relationship;
2010	Con	RPEU	for an EU that looks out to the world, and that builds strong and open relations with rising powers like China and India.
2010	Con	Other	And, like every other member State, we will fight our corner to promote our national interests.
2010	Con	RPEU	We believe Britain's interests are best served by membership of a European Union that is an association of its member States.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will never allow Britain to slide into a federal Europe.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	In government, we will put in place a number of measures to make sure this shameful episode can never happen again.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	In future, the British people must have their say on any transfer of powers to the European Union. We will amend the 1972 European Communities Act so that any proposed future treaty that transferred areas of power, or competences, would be subject to a referendum – a ‘referendum lock’.
2010	Con	ISOL	A Conservative government would never take the UK into the euro.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	Our amendment to the 1972 act will prevent any future government from doing so without a referendum.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	We do not believe that any of these ‘ratchet clauses’ should be used to hand over more powers from Britain to the EU.
2010	Con	ISOL	So a Conservative government will not agree to the UK’s participation in the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor’s Office or permit its jurisdiction over the UK.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	Additionally, the use of a major ‘ratchet clause’ which amounted to the transfer of an area of power to the EU would be subject to a referendum.
2010	Con	RPEU (scep)	A Conservative government will negotiate for three specific guarantees – on the Charter of fundamental rights, on criminal justice, and on social and employment legislation – with our European partners to return powers that we believe should reside with the UK, not the EU. We seek a mandate to negotiate the return of these powers from the EU to the UK.
2010	Con	TL (dev)	We will honour our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of national income in aid, and ensure our aid is transparent and properly targeted. We will spend at least £500 million a year to tackle malaria.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Con	GLTS	We will push for a trade deal which brings growth to the poorest countries, helps those countries adapt to climate change, and puts in place the building blocks of wealth creation.
2010	Con	LI	But we should use this opportunity to reaffirm, not abandon, our values –
2010	Con	TL (dev)	which is why we will continue to increase the level of British aid.
2010	Con	Other	We will do so because it is in our national interest, as well as being the right thing to do.
2010	Con	TL (dev)	A new Conservative government will be fully committed to achieving, by 2013, the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of national income as aid. We will stick to the rules laid down by the OECD about what spending counts as aid. We will legislate in the first session of a new Parliament to lock in this level of spending for every year from 2013.
2010	Con	TL (dev)	We support the Millennium Development goals and will continue to work towards them. We will maintain an independent Department for International Development (DFID) and keep aid untied from commercial interests. We will be completely transparent about the cost and performance of DfiD programmes by independently evaluating programmes and by introducing, where appropriate, payment by results.
2010	Con	Other	So we will stop giving aid to China and Russia and review which other countries should get British aid.
2010	Con	TL (dev)	We will focus more on the poorest, paying particular attention to development within the Commonwealth.
2010	Con	TL (dev)	A key aim of our aid is to make sure everyone gets access to the basics: clean water, sanitation, healthcare and education. We will focus particularly on the rights of women, children and disabled people to access these services.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Con	TL (dev)	So, as part of our commitment to increase aid funding, a Conservative government will spend at least £500 million per year tackling malaria and will strongly support efforts to develop a malaria vaccine.
2010	Con	GLTS	Trade and economic growth are the only sustainable way for developing countries to escape poverty, which is why we will put maximum effort into achieving an ambitious, pro-development global trade deal. Our aid programme will help poor countries put in place the building blocks of wealth creation: property rights, effective public services, stability and the rule of law.
2010	Con	GP	We will provide a more integrated approach to post-conflict reconstruction where the British military is involved – building on the Stabilisation Unit in Whitehall and creating a new Stabilisation and reconstruction force to bridge the gap between the military and the reconstruction effort.
2010	Con	TL (dev)	Establish a Poverty Impact Fund to support innovative and effective British poverty- fighting groups which do not currently qualify for government funding;
2010	Con	TL (enviro)	explore ways to help the very poorest developing countries take part in international climate change negotiations, and work to make our aid ‘climate-smart’;
2010	Con	TL (enviro)	end Labour’s use of the Export Credit Guarantee Department to support investment in dirty fossil fuel power stations, and instead use it to help spread new green energy technology to developing countries; and,
2010	Con	GLTS	encourage the establishment of a Pan-African free trade area, which has the potential to transform that continent’s economies.
2010	Lab	Other	To harness our strengths and values, as we develop Britain’s world role in a global era, using our alliances and networks in order to promote security, economic prosperity, development and to safeguard the environment.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Lab	GP	Conduct a Strategic Defence Review to equip our Armed Forces for 21st Century challenges
2010	Lab	GP	Use our international reach to build security and stability
2010	Lab	GP	combating terrorism and extremism
2010	Lab	TL (arms)	curbing proliferation,
2010	Lab	GP	preventing and resolving conflict,
2010	Lab	TL (enviro)	and tackling climate change
2010	Lab	RPEU	Lead the agenda for an outward-facing European Union that delivers jobs, prosperity and global influence.
2010	Lab	TL (dev)	Re-energise the drive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, supporting sustainable growth and combating poverty.
2010	Lab	TL	Reform the UN, International Financial Institutions, the G8 and G20, and NATO to adapt to the new global challenges.
2010	Lab	GP	That is why we take our responsibilities in Afghanistan and to our Armed Forces so seriously.
2010	Lab	GP	We have met every request for extra equipment for Afghanistan: in the last four years we have doubled the number of helicopters, and spent £1.7 billion on 1,800 new vehicles – including the Mastiff, brought into service in record time and saving lives with world-leading protection against mines and roadside bombs.
2010	Lab	TL (dev)	It will lock in the long-term gains delivered by our aid programme since 2002 – with millions more children, especially girls, going to school, big reductions in child mortality, and better access to basic healthcare.
2010	Lab	GP	The first duty of government is to protect the security of its citizens. We have created Britain's first ever National Security Strategy to strengthen our response to fast-moving and interconnected

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			threats, from terrorism and nuclear proliferation to new challenges like cybersecurity. We have trebled investment in counter- terrorism at home, combined with multilateral action against terrorism and extremism abroad, not just in the Afghan- Pakistan border areas – still the main source of the threat – but also in Yemen and Somalia.
2010	Lab	GP	Defence spending has increased by ten per cent in real terms since 1997. Funding for Iraq and Afghanistan is additional to that, with the Treasury Reserve providing £18 billion in total so far and an estimated £5 billion in the next year.
2010	Lab	GP	we will maintain our independent nuclear deterrent
2010	Lab	TL (arms)	We will fight for multilateral disarmament, working for a world free of nuclear weapons, in the Non Proliferation Treaty Review conference and beyond – combining support for civilian nuclear energy with concerted action against proliferation.
2010	Lab	GP	We are committed to a strong Navy based on the new aircraft carriers, an Air Force with two state-of-the-art fast-jet fleets as well as additional helicopters, transport planes and unmanned drones, and a strong, high-tech Army, vastly better equipped than it was in 1997.
2010	Lab	RPEU	We are proud that Britain is once again a leading player in Europe.
2010	Lab	RPEU	Our belief is that Britain is stronger in the world when the European Union is strong, and that Britain succeeds when it leads in Europe and sets the agenda for change. Sullen resistance and disengagement achieve nothing.
2010	Lab	RPEU (scep)	On the Euro, we hold to our promise that there will be no membership of the single currency without the consent of the British people in a referendum.
2010	Lab	RPEU	We support the enlargement of EU membership to include Croatia, and believe that all Western Balkan states should open negotiations on EU accession by 2014 – one hundred years after the start of the First World War.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Lab	RPEU	We will strengthen co-operation with our EU partners in fighting crime and international terrorism, and support practical European co-operation on defence, in partnership with NATO. To symbolise its commitment to global peace and justice, and energise its young people, we propose a European Peace Corps.
2010	Lab	GP	We strongly believe in co-operation between nations for a safer world. We will continue to press for stronger international action against terrorism and learn the lessons of recent experience to prevent and defuse conflict and build stability and the rule of law in places that would otherwise shelter terrorist networks. We have shown in Afghanistan and elsewhere that our military, diplomats and development staff can set an international standard for joint working, but we will not put the aid budget under military control.
2010	Lab	TL (dev)	We will spend at least half of our new bilateral aid in fragile and conflict-affected states.
2010	Lab	TL (arms)	Having played a leading role in the international agreement to ban cluster bombs, we are leading the campaign for a legally binding global arms trade treaty in 2012.
2010	Lab	TL	We will continue to drive reform of the humanitarian agencies at the UN
2010	Lab	LI	and work to build an international consensus on 'responsibility to protect', while supporting the International Criminal Court in bringing previously untouchable criminals to justice. We will advocate a new international convention to enable the prosecution of perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity.
2010	Lab	GP	We support the creation of a viable Palestinian state that can live alongside a secure Israel.
2010	Lab	GP	We support engagement and pressure on the Iranian regime; it is threatening its own people as well as the security of the region and the world.
2010	Lab	TL	In Africa, Labour has made aid, trade, conflict prevention and good governance a priority.
2010	Lab	Other	We will support the final stages of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan,



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Lab	LI	and maintain the pressure for Zimbabwe to transition back to democracy as quickly as possible.
2010	Lab	GP	We will work with Greece and Turkey for long-term stability in Cyprus; and continue to support bilateral efforts by India and Pakistan to improve relations.
2010	Lab	Other	The two countries have profound ties to the UK, which we are determined to nurture.
2010	Lab	LI	We will keep up the pressure for the release of Aung Sang Suu Kyi and a return to democracy in Burma.
2010	Lab	LI	We strongly support reconstruction and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. We believe that both the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka must be held to account for the loss of civilian life, and we will continue to urge the Sri Lankan Government to fulfil its commitment to a full and fair investigation into war crimes committed in the final months of the civil war.
2010	Lab	LI	Human rights and democracy are a central feature of our foreign policy for a simple reason – we believe human rights are universal, and it is the job of strong and mature democracies to support the development of free societies everywhere – while upholding our own legal and moral obligations.
2010	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour’s international leadership on development has helped transform the lives of millions across the world.
2010	Lab	TL (dev)	We will lead an international campaign to get the Millennium Development Goals back on track. We remain committed to spending 0.7 per cent of national income on aid from 2013, and we will enshrine this commitment in law early in the next Parliament. Our aid will target the poorest and most excluded – spent transparently and evaluated independently.
2010	Lab	TL (eco)	We will fight corruption, investing more to track, freeze, and recover assets stolen from developing countries. Further action will be taken to strengthen developing countries’ tax systems, reduce tax evasion, improve reporting, and crack down on tax havens.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	Lab	TL	To increase accountability, we will allocate at least five per cent of all funding developing country budgets for the purpose of strengthening the role of Parliaments and civil society.
2010	Lab	TL (eco)	Our leadership on debt cancellation has freed 28 countries from the shackles of debt. We will continue to drive this agenda, building on legislation to clampdown on vulture funds.
2010	Lab	TL (dev)	We will spend £8.5 billion over eight years to help more children go to school; maintain our pledge to spend £6 billion on health between 2008 and 2015 and £1 billion through the Global Fund to support the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria; fight for universal access to prevention, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS by 2010; and deliver at least 30 million additional anti-malarial bed-nets over the next three years.
2010	Lab	TL (dev)	We will provide £1 billion for water and sanitation by 2013, driving this issue up the international agenda, and over £1 billion on food security and agriculture. We will push for the establishment of a Global Council on Child Hunger. We will help save the lives of six million mothers and babies by 2015 and,
2010	Lab	TL	because international focus on the needs of women and girls is vital, we will double core funding to the new UN Women's agency.
2010	Lab	TL	we will work closely with NGOs and developing countries to eliminate user fees and promote healthcare and education free at the point of access.
2010	Lab	TL (eco)	We will encourage other countries to ratify the ILO conventions on labour standards, as we have done.
2010	Lab	TL (eco)	We will work with the private sector, trade unions and co-operatives to promote sustainable development, quadruple our funding for fair and ethical trade, and press for a fair World Trade Organisation deal, with no enforced liberalisation for poor countries, and increased duty-free and quota-free access.
2010	Lab	TL	The extension of the G8.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			<p>A clearer mandate for the World Bank to focus on the poorest countries and promote low-carbon development; and for the IMF to focus on financial stability, with both becoming more inclusive.</p> <p>Radical UN reform, including new membership of the Security Council, budgetary reform, and an overhaul of UN agencies.</p> <p>Continuing reform of NATO and stronger international co-operation to tackle security challenges, while building the capacity of regional security organisations including the African Union.</p>
2010	Lab	LC	The enduring role of the Commonwealth – a unique organisation for fostering understanding and trust, spanning a quarter of the world’s population.
2010	Lab	Other	International commitments and a voice for Britain in global affairs are not an optional extra for Labour. They are central to our vision of a better Britain. We have strengthened our international alliances and will continue to do so in ways that speak to our deepest values as a nation.
2010	LibD	Other	Britain must work together with our partners abroad if we are to have the best hope of meeting the challenges the world faces.
2010	LibD	LI	We believe in freedom, justice, prosperity and human rights for all and will do all we can to work towards a world where these hopes become reality
2010	LibD	Other	Liberal Democrats believe that Britain must work together with its partners abroad if we are to have the best hope of meeting the challenges the world faces.
2010	LibD	LI	We believe in freedom, justice, prosperity and human rights for all and will do all we can to work towards a world where these hopes become reality.
2010	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats will work through the European Union to deliver a global deal on climate change.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	LibD	GP	We will transform the armed forces
2010	LibD	GP	and conducting a full defence review to ensure they are equipped for modern threats.
2010	LibD	TL (eco)	We will push for better global financial regulation.
2010	LibD	TL	We will strive for global nuclear disarmament, showing leadership by committing not to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system on a like-for-like basis.
2010	LibD	TL (dev)	We will meet the UK's obligations to the developing world by committing to spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on aid.
2010	LibD	RPEU	And we will put Britain at the heart of Europe, to ensure we use our influence to achieve prosperity, security and opportunity for Britain.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Liberal Democrats are unwavering in our commitment: runaway climate change must be stopped, and politicians must follow the science in order to make that happen.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	We will set a target for a zero-carbon Britain that doesn't contribute at all to global warming – making the British economy carbon-neutral overall by 2050, reducing carbon emissions in the UK by over 40 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 as a step on the way.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Liberal Democrats are committed to securing a legally binding global agreement on limiting the increase in global temperatures to below 1.7 degrees Celsius. We believe that such an agreement must be based on reducing emissions overall, while equalising emissions between the developed and developing worlds – the principle of contraction and convergence.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Strong and credible EU ambition, with effective UK leadership, are essential for achieving a global agreement, so that total greenhouse gas emissions peak no later than 2015.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Liberal Democrats will work within Europe and internationally to give renewed urgency to global efforts to combat climate change.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Promote the transition to a low-carbon economy in Europe, by moving unilaterally and immediately to an EU emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2020, adopting new long-term targets and policies for clean energy and energy efficiency; and expand investment in energy technology innovation, within Europe and internationally.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Boost investment in clean energy by reforming the EU emissions trading scheme – bringing in a tighter cap on emissions, auctioning as many allowances as possible, and encouraging other European countries to increase the use of reserve prices in allowance auctions.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Engage with major emitters and deepen diplomatic co-operation between the EU and emerging economies and developing countries, provide enhanced financial support for low-carbon solutions and lead international efforts to promote the transfer of technologies that will help to tackle climate change.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Work for the adoption of ‘quick win’ measures that could be initiated within the next few years such as reducing the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	At the UN level, we will support the provision of UN Adaptation Funds for developing countries, financed from international emissions markets, such as a cap-and-trade system for international emissions from aviation and shipping.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Co-ordinated international action and effective global institutions are necessary to help create a sustainable future and improve the quality of life of all the world’s citizens.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Work through the EU to make sure that the environment is fully integrated into the objectives of international institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Work to increase the resourcing of the UN Environment Programme and improve the enforcement of international environmental treaties.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Protect the world's forests, not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to preserve this crucial reservoir of biodiversity. We will argue for an international target of zero net deforestation by 2020; support a new system of payments to developing countries to enable them to reduce deforestation; and adopt at EU – or, if necessary, at UK – level a new law making it illegal to import or possess timber produced illegally in foreign countries.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Work with other countries to develop an international labelling system for the environmental impact of products, helping consumers choose those with the least impact on resource use and pollution.
2010	LibD	TL (dev)	Liberal Democrats are committed to working towards a world free from poverty, inequality and injustice and meeting the Millennium Development Goals is a vital first step. But beyond this we will also ensure that action is taken to allow developing nations to grow and to prevent them suffering unfairly the effects of climate change inflicted by developed countries.
2010	LibD	TL (dev)	Increase the UK's aid budget to reach the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2013 and enshrine that target in law. We will hold the G8 to its Gleneagles pledges on aid, including on the 0.7 per cent target.
2010	LibD	TL	Work with other countries to establish new sources of development financing, including bringing forward urgent proposals for a financial transaction tax and a cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions from aviation and shipping.
2010	LibD	TL (eco)	Support reform of the global financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.
2010	LibD	TL (eco)	Ban banks from facilitating the transfer of funds obtained by corruption. We will crack down on tax havens which allow individuals and corporations to avoid paying taxes to developing countries.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Ensure that the developing world is prepared to deal with the consequences of a changing climate. We will ensure that adaptation and mitigation measures are financed by industrialised nations on top of existing aid commitments.
2010	LibD	TL (dev)	Prioritise health and education programmes which aim to promote gender equality, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and restrict the spread of major diseases like HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. We will focus effort on supplying basic needs like clean water.
2010	LibD	TL (enviro)	Support a global fund for social protection to help developing countries build viable welfare systems.
2010	LibD	TL (eco)	Push for a renewed international effort on debt and support 100 per cent cancellation of the unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries. We will also take measures against 'vulture funds' and lobby for similar action at international level.
2010	LibD	GP	So we will ensure that taxpayers' money is spent more effectively on equipping the forces for the tasks of the future, not old Cold War threats.
2010	LibD	GP	Hold an immediate Strategic Security and Defence Review (SSDR) to ensure that Britain deploys its resources to face the most serious threats to its citizens' security and well-being, including non-military challenges such as climate change.
2010	LibD	Other	With strong Treasury involvement, review all major defence procurement projects through the SSDR to ensure money is being spent effectively. We will not purchase tranche 3B of the Eurofighter.
2010	LibD	TL (arms)	Rule out the like-for-like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. At a cost of £100 billion over a lifetime it is unaffordable, and Britain's security would be better served by alternatives. We support multilateral nuclear disarmament and will ensure that the UK plays a proactive role in the arms reduction talks starting later this year.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	LibD	Other	Reinvigorate Franco-British and wider European defence co-operation to ensure procurement costs are kept low.
2010	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats believe that European co-operation is the best way for Britain to be strong, safe and influential in the future. We will ensure that Britain maximises its influence through a strong and positive commitment.
2010	LibD	RPEU	But just because Europe is essential, that doesn't mean the European Union is perfect.
2010	LibD	RPEU	Working together, the member states of the EU have a better chance of managing the impacts of globalisation, such as cross-border crime and environmental pollution.
2010	LibD	GLTS	Work with Britain's European neighbours to create thousands of new jobs by breaking down trade barriers and boosting support for green jobs.
2010	LibD	TL (eco)	Work through the European Union for stricter international regulation of financial services and banking.
2010	LibD	RPEU	Keep Britain part of international crime-fighting measures such as the European Arrest Warrant, European Police Office (Europol), Eurojust, and the European Criminal Records Information System, while ensuring high standards of justice.
2010	LibD	RPEU (scep)	Campaign for continuing reform of the EU budget so that money is spent only on the things the EU really needs to do.
2010	LibD	RPEU (scep)	Liberal Democrats therefore remain committed to an in/out referendum the next time a British government signs up for fundamental change in the relationship between the UK and the EU
2010	LibD	RPEU	We believe that it is in Britain's long-term interest to be part of the euro.
2010	LibD	RPEU (scep)	But Britain should only join when the economic conditions are right, and in the present economic situation, they are not. Britain should join the euro only if that decision were supported by the people of Britain in a referendum.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2010	LibD	LI	Liberal Democrats will put British values of fairness and the rule of law back at the heart of our foreign policy.
2010	LibD	GP	We will also give greater support to conflict prevention – which saves money and saves lives.
2010	LibD	RPEU	Make the EU use its collective weight effectively in other areas of foreign policy. Britain can have a far stronger voice on relations with Russia, China, Iran and the Middle East peace process when it joins with the rest of Europe.
2010	LibD	Other	Be critical supporters of the Afghanistan mission. The military surge must be accompanied by a strategy to ensure a more legitimate government, tackle corruption and win over moderate elements in the insurgency. We will continue to demand a strategy that involves other players in the region. We believe that a successful strategy will stabilise Afghanistan enough to allow British troops to come home during the next Parliament.
2010	LibD	TL (arms)	Support the establishment of an International Arms Trade Treaty to limit the sale of arms to dangerous regimes and work for a full international ban on cluster munitions. We will ensure that British arms are not sold to states that would use them for internal repression. We will require arms brokers to register under a code of conduct and revoke the licences of those who break the code.
2010	LibD	GP	Support action by the international community to stop Iran obtaining nuclear weapons. We would follow a diplomatic route of active engagement, and are ready to back targeted sanctions, but we oppose military action against Iran and believe those calling for such action undermine the growing reform movement in Iran.
2010	LibD	GP	Remain committed to the search for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
2010	LibD	GP	We condemn disproportionate force used by all sides. We believe Britain and the EU must put pressure on Israel and Egypt to end the blockade of Gaza.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	For too long, your voice has been ignored on Europe. We will:

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			give you a say over whether we should stay in or leave the EU, with an in-out referendum by the end of 2017
2015	Con	ISOL	commit to keeping the pound and staying out of the Eurozone
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	reclaim power from Brussels on your behalf and safeguard British interests in the Single Market
2015	Con	GLTS	back businesses to create jobs in Britain by completing ambitious trade deals and reducing red tape.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	We took Britain out of Eurozone bailouts, including for Greece – the first ever return of powers from Brussels. Our Prime Minister vetoed a new EU treaty that would have damaged Britain’s interests.
2015	Con	GLTS	And we have pursued a bold, positive, pro-business agenda, exempting smallest businesses from red tape, promoting free trade, and pushing to extend the Single Market to new sectors, like digital.
2015	Con	RPEU	We say: yes to the Single Market. Yes to turbo- charging free trade. Yes to working together where we are stronger together than alone. Yes to a family of nation states, all part of a European Union – but whose interests, crucially, are guaranteed whether inside the Euro or out No to ‘ever closer union.’
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	No to a constant flow of power to Brussels. No to unnecessary interference.
2015	Con	ISOL	And no, of course, to the Euro, to participation in Eurozone bail-outs or notions like a European Army.
2015	Con	RPEU (Scep)	That’s why, after the election, we will negotiate a new settlement for Britain in Europe, and then ask the British people whether they want to stay in the EU on this reformed basis or leave. David

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			Cameron has committed that he will only lead a government that offers an in-out referendum. We will hold that in-out referendum before the end of 2017 and respect the outcome.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	and only the Conservatives can and will deliver an in-out referendum.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will let you decide whether to stay in or leave the EU
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will negotiate a new settlement for Britain in the EU.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	And then we will ask the British people whether they want to stay in on this basis, or leave. We will honour the result of the referendum, whatever the outcome.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will protect Britain's economy
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will protect our economy from any further integration of the Eurozone.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	But we will not let the integration of the Eurozone jeopardise the integrity of the Single Market or in any way disadvantage the UK.
2015	Con	RPEU (scep)	We will reclaim powers from Brussels
			We want to see powers flowing away from Brussels, not to it. We have already taken action to return around 100 powers, but we want to go further. We want national parliaments to be able to work together to block unwanted European legislation. And we want an end to our commitment to an 'ever closer union,' as enshrined in the Treaty to which every EU country has to sign up.
2015	Con	ISOL	Furthermore, we will continue to ensure that defence policy remains firmly under British national control,
2015	Con	FAUS	maintaining NATO and the transatlantic relationship as the cornerstones of our defence and security policy.
2015	Con	RPEU	We want an EU that helps Britain move ahead, not one that holds us back

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Con	GLTS	We have already succeeded in exempting our smallest businesses from new EU regulations, and kicked-off negotiations for a massive EU trade deal with the USA, which could be worth billions of pounds to the UK economy. We will build on this. We want to preserve the integrity of the Single Market, by insisting on protections for those countries that have kept their own currencies. We want to expand the Single Market, breaking down the remaining barriers to trade and ensuring that new sectors are opened up to British firms. We want to ensure that new rules target unscrupulous behaviour in the financial services industry, while safeguarding Britain as a global centre of excellence in finance. So we will resist EU attempts to restrict legitimate financial services activities.
2015	Con	Other	Everything we do around the world will be driven by a determination to protect your security and help you prosper.
2015	Con	GP	ensure Britain is a major player on the world stage, using diplomacy to protect your interests, uphold British values and tackle threats to your security and prosperity
2015	Con	GLTS	help generate new trade, investment and job opportunities, to benefit you and your family
2015	Con	GP	maintain our world class Armed Forces so they continue to guarantee your security
2015	Con	TL (dev)	uphold our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on international development.
2015	Con	Other	Our prosperity depends upon Britain remaining an active, outward-looking nation, one that is engaged with the world, not looking in on itself. We will maintain Britain's strong global role and our capacity to project British power and values around the world.
2015	Con	Other	We have strengthened Britain's influence in the world.
2015	Con	GP	The National Security Council that we established ensures proper, strategic decision-making at the top of government.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Con	GLTS	We have boosted exports to emerging markets,
2015	Con	Other	opened new diplomatic posts in Africa, Asia and Latin America
2015	Con	LI	and led the world in promoting women's rights and tackling sexual violence in conflict.
2015	Con	GP	We have balanced the defence budget and set out a clear strategy to defend our nation for the long term.
2015	Con	Other	A Conservative Government will tackle these challenges. We will use our membership of NATO, the EU, the Commonwealth, our UN Security Council seat, our Special Relationship with the USA, our intelligence agencies, vital institutions like the BBC World Service and British Council, and the strong personal links between our diaspora communities and other countries, to achieve the best for Britain.
2015	Con	GP	We will back this up with UK military power
2015	Con	TL (dev)	and international aid
2015	Con	GP	Our long-term economic plan will ensure we have the economic strength to maintain our world-class Armed Forces, to uphold our national security and project power globally.
2015	Con	TL (dev)	So we will maintain our commitment to tackling conflict, poverty and disease around the world.
2015	Con	GP	We will keep you secure
2015	Con	GP	We will tackle global terrorism and the poisonous ideology of Islamist extremism while taking a patient, long-term approach to preventing conflict and state failure. We will work with our partners to address threats to UK security, including the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, pandemic diseases, the illegal drugs trade, piracy and organised crime.
2015	Con	GP	work for peace, stability and an inclusive settlement in Syria and Iraq; and pursue a comprehensive political and military strategy to defeat ISIL

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Con	GP	uphold the sovereignty, integrity and capacity of Ukraine, and continue to reject Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea
2015	Con	FAUS	stand shoulder to shoulder with our NATO allies, reassuring all its members – especially those closest to Russia – of their security, and continue to support the Euro-Atlantic path for Western Balkan nations
2015	Con	GP	ensure that the significant achievements of our Armed Forces in Afghanistan are maintained; and support the Government of Afghanistan in ensuring that the country remains stable and never again becomes a haven for international terrorists
2015	Con	GP	support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, robustly defending the right of Israel to protect its security, while continuing to condemn illegal settlement building, which undermines the prospects for peace
2015	Con	GP	protect global security by helping to lead international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon; and work to ensure that North Korea ends its development of nuclear weapons
2015	Con	GLTS	Over the last five years, we have used foreign policy to boost our prosperity.
2015	Con	GLTS	We will do more, using the new embassies and diplomatic posts we have opened to connect Britain to the fastest-growing economies in the world. We will push for freer global trade, concluding major trade deals with the US, India and Japan and reinvigorating the World Trade Organisation. As part of our drive to attract more investment into the UK and increase British exports
2015	Con	GLTS	build on our strong relationship with India, push for an ambitious EU-India trade deal and support India's bid for permanent representation on the UN Security Council strengthen our economic links with China, doubling support for British firms selling goods there and championing an EU-China trade deal
2015	Con	LI	We will stand up for British values

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Con	LI	Over the last five years, we have stood up for what we believe in: intervening to stop a massacre in Libya, leading the world in tackling sexual violence in conflict, and helping women and children who have fled violence in Syria. We will continue this leadership. We will stand up for the freedom of people of all religions – and non-religious people – to practise their beliefs in peace and safety, for example by supporting persecuted Christians in the Middle East. We will strengthen the Commonwealth’s focus on promoting democratic values and development. We will drive forward the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative.
2015	Con	TL (dev)	We will support global processes on arms control.
2015	Con	LI	And we will continue to support universal human rights.
2015	Con	FAUS	uphold our Special Relationship with the USA
2015	Con	LC	and further strengthen our ties with our close Commonwealth allies, Australia, Canada and New Zealand
2015	Con	LI	uphold the democratic rights of the people of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands to remain British, for as long as that is their wish, and protect our Overseas Territories
2015	Con	LI	stand up for the rule of law and human rights in Zimbabwe
2015	Con	LI	support a democratic transition in Burma
2015	Con	LI	promote reconciliation and human rights in Sri Lanka, including through supporting the UN investigation into war crimes, which the Prime Minister was instrumental in securing following his historic visit to Jaffna
2015	Con	GP	actively support Cypriots to find a peaceful and lasting settlement to reunite their island
2015	Con	GP	We will protect our nation
2015	Con	GP	We will continue to keep our Armed Forces strong so they can continue to keep you safe. We will maintain the size of the regular armed services and not reduce the army to below 82,000. We will

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			retain the Trident continuous at sea nuclear deterrent to provide the ultimate guarantee of our safety and build the new fleet of four Successor Ballistic Missile Submarines – securing thousands of highly-skilled engineering jobs in the UK.
2015	Con	FAUS	We will work closely with our allies to continue to strengthen NATO – supporting its new multi-national rapid response force.
2015	Con	GP	We will maintain our global presence, strengthening our defence partnerships in the Gulf and Asia. Later this year, we will hold a National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review to plan for the future.
2015	Con	GP	We will maintain a balanced defence budget and give our Armed Forces the equipment they need
2015	Con	GP	We are meeting NATO’s two targets: that each country should spend two per cent of its gross national income on defence, and of that spending 20 per cent should go on major equipment. We have made commitments for the equipment plan to be funded at one per cent above inflation for the next Parliament. We plan to invest at least £160 billion in new military equipment over the next decade: as well as our six new Type 45 destroyers, we are building a class of seven Astute submarines and buying the Joint Strike Fighter, Scout armoured vehicles, Type 26 frigates and new Apache attack helicopters. We will bring both of our new Aircraft Carriers – HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, the largest vessels the Royal Navy has ever possessed – into service, so we have one available for use at all times.
2015	Con	GP	We will maintain strong, modern Armed Forces
2015	Con	GP	We have invested significantly in our reserves, and we will deliver on our commitment to expand them to 35,000. We will continue to invest in our cyber defence capabilities.
2015	Con	ISOL	We will ensure our Armed Forces overseas are not subject to persistent human rights claims that undermine their ability to do their job.
2015	Con	TL (dev)	We will continue to honour our commitments



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			Tackling global poverty is both the right thing to do and in Britain's interests. We have delivered on our promises to meet the UN target of spending 07 per cent of national income as aid and to enshrine this in law. We will continue to meet the 07 per cent target, maintain an independent Department for International Development and keep aid untied. Our aid budget meets the OECD aid rules, and we will actively engage in international discussions to ensure that these rules fully reflect the importance of peace, stability and effective institutions for reducing poverty. We will insist that every government and organisation we fund meets global transparency standards.
2015	Con	TL	<p>We will save lives</p> <p>By 2020, we will save 14 million children's lives, by immunising 76 million children against killer diseases. We will help at least 11 million children in the poorest countries gain a decent education, improve nutrition for at least 50 million people, who would otherwise go hungry; and help at least 60 million people get access to clean water and sanitation, to stop terrible diseases. We will continue to lead the response to humanitarian emergencies, and establish a means to respond rapidly to crises. Our leading role in dealing with the recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa is a good example of how our aid programme helps protect Britain from serious threats, while also helping countries tackle major emergencies which put their stability at risk. We will lead a major new global programme to accelerate the development of vaccines and drugs to eliminate the world's deadliest infectious diseases, while investing to save lives from malaria and working to end preventable child and maternal deaths. We will expand payment by results and ensure all money to governments is clearly earmarked for specific purposes.</p>
2015	Con	TL (dev)	<p>We will tackle the causes of poverty and promote gender equality</p> <p>We will push for new global goals to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and promote human development, gender equality and good governance.</p>

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Con	TL (enviro)	We will work to prevent climate change and assist the poorest in adapting to it.
2015	Con	GLTS	As the route out of poverty is about much more than just aid, we will boost growth and jobs, making it easier for people to start up businesses and trade freely with each other.
2015	Con	LI	We will continue to promote the golden thread of democracy, the rule of law, property rights, a free media and open, accountable institutions.
2015	Con	TL	We will promote girls' education, encourage equal access to property rights and work to achieve access to family planning for everyone who wants it. We will continue to lead efforts to tackle violence against women and girls, end FGM and combat early and forced marriage, both at home and abroad
2015	Con	TL (dev)	We will help you fight poverty  Our International Citizen Service has given thousands of young Brits the opportunity to volunteer abroad. We will triple it in size. We will also double our successful Aid Match scheme, which matches donations to charity from the aid budget. We will boost partnerships between UK institutions and their counterparts in the developing world, and help people in the UK give or lend money directly to individuals and entrepreneurs around the world.
2015	Lab	Other	We will stand up for Britain's interests in Europe and the world
2015	Lab	Other	Labour is an internationalist party and believes Britain must engage with the global challenges we face, but not try and solve them on our own.
2015	Lab	GP	We will strengthen our national security,
2015	Lab	LI	stand up for human rights,
2015	Lab	GP	and work with other countries to tackle terrorism,

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Lab	TL (enviro)	climate change,
2015	Lab	TL (dev)	and eliminate extreme poverty globally.
2015	Lab	Other	Britain has a unique influence in the world. We are the only country that is a member of the UN Security Council, NATO, the G7, the G20, the Commonwealth and the EU.
2015	Lab	Other	With Labour, Britain's response to threats to our security will be based on enduring principles. We will protect our national interests, and strengthen our long-standing international alliances, in particular, our membership of NATO and the European Union. We will advance our international engagement, rather than retreating into isolation.
2015	Lab	GP	We will maintain the best Armed Forces in the world, capable of responding to changing threats in an unpredictable security landscape
2015	Lab	LI	And we will support human rights, always putting individual freedom and democracy at the heart of our foreign policy.
2015	Lab	Other	We will take a multilateral approach to global challenges. We will continue to uphold our key alliances.
2015	Lab	FAUS	These include the United States
2015	Lab	Other	, our allies in Africa and Latin America,
2015	Lab	LC	and our partners from across the Commonwealth.
2015	Lab	RPEU	They also include the European Union.
2015	Lab	FAUS	The crisis in Ukraine over the past year has demonstrated the importance of NATO
2015	Lab	RPEU	and the EU standing up to external threats in Europe's eastern, and southern neighbourhoods.
2015	Lab	RPEU	Labour will continue to advocate an EU which looks outward to promote stability, peace and prosperity on its borders.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Lab	GP	Most immediately we will work with our allies to counter and confront terrorism.
2015	Lab	GP	Following a request from the Iraqi Prime Minister, it was right that the UK joined other nations in air strikes against ISIL targets in Iraq. But military action alone will not defeat ISIL. A long-term multinational political strategy, with regional actors playing a central role, is essential for tackling the rise of extremism across the region.
2015	Lab	GP	A Labour Government will always do what is necessary to defend our country.
2015	Lab	Other	Beyond self-defence, Labour has been clear about the need to learn the lessons of previous interventions, especially the 2003 invasion of Iraq. We will continue the approach we have taken in this Parliament. A Labour Government would not propose the use of military force without judging whether reasonable diplomatic efforts have been exhausted, the action is proportionate and in partnership with allies, whether there is a clear legal basis, and if there is a clear plan, not just for winning the war but also for building a lasting peace.
2015	Lab	GP	Peace and security in the Middle East are one of Labour's most important foreign policy objectives. We remain committed to a comprehensive two-state solution – a secure Israel alongside a viable and independent state of Palestine. There can be no military solution to this conflict and all sides must avoid taking action that would make peace harder to achieve. Labour will continue to press for an immediate return to meaningful negotiations leading to a diplomatic resolution.
2015	Lab	GP	Labour will also continue to honour the UK's commitment to support Afghanistan as it seeks to secure an inclusive and durable political settlement.
2015	Lab	Other	As power and wealth continues to shift from West to East, our relationship with Asia will be fundamental to our long-term prosperity.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Lab	Other	Labour will set up an Asia Step-Change Taskforce to ensure a more strategic and effective dialogue with regional partners, including China, both in the commercial realm, and in other areas, from cultural exchange to human rights.
2015	Lab	LI	This commitment to universal human rights will be at the heart of our foreign policy across the world. We will continue to promote women's rights. We will join with those campaigning to attain gender equality, the eradication of poverty and inclusive economic growth. We will appoint a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom, and establish a multi-faith advisory council on religious freedom within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. And we will appoint an International LGBT Rights Envoy to promote respect for the human rights of LGBT people, and work towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality worldwide.
2015	Lab	RPEU	Labour believes that our membership of the European Union is central to our prosperity and security. It is why we will work to change the EU, so that it operates in the best interests of our country. And it is why we will re-engage with our European allies to protect our national interest after five years of Britain being side-lined in Europe and isolated abroad.
2015	Lab	RPEU	Labour will focus on the completion of the single market
2015	Lab	ISOL	. We will not join the Euro
2015	Lab	RPEU (scep)	and we will ensure EU rules protect the interests of non-Euro members.
2015	Lab	ISOL	So we will secure reforms to immigration and social security rules, as well as pushing for stronger transitional controls, which will enable member states to manage the flow of workers for longer when new countries join.
2015	Lab	RPEU	It is not to take Britain out of Europe.
2015	Lab	RPEU (scep)	However, Labour will legislate for a lock that guarantees that there can be no transfer of powers from Britain to the European Union without the consent of the British public through an in/out referendum.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Lab	GP	That is why Labour is committed to ensuring the UK has responsive, high-tech Armed Forces, with the capability to respond to emerging, interconnected threats, in an unpredictable security landscape. We will conduct a Strategic Defence and Security Review in the first year of government, with an inclusive national debate on the security and defence challenges facing the country. It will be fiscally responsible and strategically driven, focusing on the obstacles that impede our Armed Forces from effective response to threats.
2015	Lab	GP	Britain needs to be prepared to counter the threat of cyber-attacks. We have already called on the Government to require every company working with the Ministry of Defence, regardless of its size or the scale of its work, to sign up to a cyber-security charter. This would reduce the risk of hackers using small suppliers to break into the systems of major defence companies or the department itself. We will consult on creating a statutory requirement for all private companies, to report serious cyber-attacks threatening our national infrastructure.
2015	Lab	GP	Labour remains committed to a minimum, credible, independent nuclear capability, delivered through a Continuous At-Sea Deterrent.
2015	Lab	TL (arms)	We will actively work to increase momentum on global multilateral disarmament efforts and negotiations, and look at further reductions in global stockpiles and the numbers of weapons.
2015	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will put climate change at the heart of our foreign policy
2015	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will expand the role of the Department of International Development to mitigate the risks of a changing climate, and support sustainable livelihoods for the world's poorest people.
2015	Lab	TL (enviro)	We want an ambitious agreement on climate change at the UNFCCC conference in Paris, in December. We will make the case for ambitious emissions targets for all countries, strengthened every five years on the basis of a scientific assessment of the progress towards the below two degree goal. And we will push for a goal of net zero global emissions in the second half of this century, for transparent and universal rules for measuring, verifying and reporting emissions, and

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			for an equitable deal in which richer countries provide support to poorer nations in combatting climate change.
2015	Lab	TL (dev)	We are proud that Labour MPs passed the historic law that commits Britain to spend 0.7 per cent of our gross national income on international development. Labour will use that commitment from the British public to transform the lives of the world's poorest people, whilst ensuring value for taxpayers' money. We will work in fragile and conflict-affected states to improve the lives of those affected by violence, prioritising the protection and education of women and children. We will rebalance the budget to focus funding on the world's poorest countries.
2015	Lab	TL (dev)	We will work with other countries at this year's Sustainable Development Goals Summit to unite the world to eradicate extreme poverty, tackle growing economic inequality, and place human rights at the heart of development. We will establish a Centre for Universal Health Coverage to provide the support, encouragement, and global partnerships needed to help countries provide free healthcare. We will lead efforts to reshape the UN humanitarian system to better equip it to save lives.
2015	Lab	TL (eco)	The private sector is essential to long-term development, and is often a positive force for change. We will extend the sharing of tax information to developing countries, increase DFID's help to governments to collect more of their own taxes, tackle corruption, and ensure good governance. We will work with companies to ensure they have sustainable supply chains that are free from slavery, treat their workers fairly, and pay taxes where they are due.
2015	Lab	GP	conduct a Strategic Defence and Security Review in the first year of government
2015	Lab	RPEU (scep)	return Britain to a leadership role in Europe, but reform the EU so that it works for Britain
2015	Lab	RPEU (scep)	guarantee no powers will be transferred to Brussels without an in/out referendum
2015	Lab	LI	appoint an International LGBT Rights Envoy and a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	Lab	TL (enviro)	push for an ambitious target in Paris to get to goal of net zero global emissions in the second half of this century.
2015	LibD	Other	We will ensure Britain actively and constructively works with our allies and partners in the European Union, Commonwealth, UN and NATO to engage with and develop policy responses when liberal internationalism and the rules-based system are challenged.
2015	LibD	LI	Liberal Democrats are internationalists because we respect the rights of human beings wherever they live
2015	LibD	Other	and understand that by working together countries can achieve more than they can alone.
2015	LibD	Other	This is particularly true for a country like the UK with a rich web of global relationships, which gives it the potential to wield greater influence than its economic or military power alone would permit.
2015	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats have worked tirelessly in government to keep Britain at the heart of the European Union, to secure the best deal for British citizens
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Our Ministers have represented the UK across the world on vital issues from climate change
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	to nuclear disarmament
2015	LibD	Other	and secured agreements that will keep us all safer,
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	not least the International Arms Trade Treaty.
2015	LibD	LI	We have stood up for human rights
2015	LibD	SQP	the rule of international law
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	and humanitarian aid, delivering for the first time on the 40 year old UN ambition for developed countries to spend 0.7% of national income as Official Development Assistance.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	Other	We will ensure Britain actively and constructively works with our allies and partners in the European Union, Commonwealth, UN and NATO to engage with and develop policy responses when liberal internationalism and the rules-based system are challenged.
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	Increased aid spending to 0.7% of national income, and guaranteed this in law
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	Ensure the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals aim to end poverty, protect the environment and leave no one behind
2015	LibD	TL (eco)	Secured a record £23.9 billion last year from clamping down on tax evasion, avoidance and fraud, and won G8 agreement on transparency on the real owners of businesses
2015	LibD	TL (eco)	Improve tax transparency including in low-income countries by extending country-by-country reporting from banks and extractive industries to all UK listed companies
2015	LibD	RPEU (scep)	Passed a law to guarantee a referendum before Britain passes any more powers to the EU
2015	LibD	RPEU	Ensure Britain plays a constructive part in the European Union
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Agreed an ambitious EU target of 40% cuts to carbon emissions by 2030, and secured Rio+20 agreements on sustainable development
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Work to secure a binding global agreement on cutting emissions, and a stronger commitment within the EU to a 50% reduction by 2030
2015	LibD	GP	Focus on ensuring our armed forces have the training and equipment they need for the threats of today
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	and end continuous nuclear weapon patrols
2015	LibD	Other	At times like these we need to redouble our diplomatic efforts and work closely with our EU and NATO partners to promote an active, rights-based foreign policy for our mutual defence.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	Other	The UK has a proud record of playing a leading role in the European Union and in international institutions like the UN, NATO and the Commonwealth and should continue to do so
2015	LibD	LI	wherever possible promoting our values of freedom and opportunity for all
2015	LibD	GP	Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military cooperation – to focus UK policy on conflict prevention. This will require a joint approach across the MOD, FCO, DFID and other departments, and we will continue to assess UK government actions for their impacts on conflict prevention and security. This will be a priority within the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), which should begin immediately after the election.
2015	LibD	SQP	Engage with and strengthen multilateral UN and treaty-based institutions worldwide.
2015	LibD	LI	Support the UN principle of Responsibility to Protect. This principle focuses on the security of individuals, rather than states.
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	<p>Improve control of arms exports by:</p> <p>Implementing a policy of ‘presumption of denial’ for arms exports to countries listed as countries of concern in the Foreign Office’s annual human rights report.</p> <p>Requiring end-user certification on all future arms export licenses with an annual report to Parliament on this certification.</p>
2015	LibD	LI	Should all these institutions and policies fail, we recognise it will be necessary to consider military interventions to protect ourselves and fulfil our international obligations.
2015	LibD	SQP	However in these circumstances, Liberal Democrats believe the UK should intervene only when there is a clear legal and/or humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in Parliament, working within the remit of international institutions wherever and whenever possible.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	GP	Promote democracy and stability in Ukraine and neighbouring countries against an increasingly assertive Russia. We will work closely with EU and other international partners to exert maximum economic and political pressure on Russia to stop interfering in the affairs of sovereign Eastern European nations, and will stand by our obligations under the NATO treaty in the event of threats to NATO member states.
2015	LibD	RPEU	We will work with the EU to develop an EU energy strategy that will reduce reliance on Russia's energy supplies.
2015	LibD	GP	Continue to work with international partners – Western, African and Arab – to tackle Islamic fanaticism embodied by organisations like the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria and Boko Haram in Nigeria.
2015	LibD	GP	We favour broadening the international Coalition against IS.
2015	LibD	Other	Recognising that airstrikes alone will not defeat IS, continue a comprehensive approach, in compliance with international law, to supporting the Iraqi government in standing against IS, including:
2015	LibD	LI	Assistance in strengthening its democratic institutions.
2015	LibD	Other	Training the Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters.
2015	LibD	LI	Humanitarian relief to help alleviate the suffering of displaced Syrians and Iraqis.
2015	LibD	GP	Support the moderate opposition in Syria, who are fighting both President Bashar al-Assad and IS. We will continue to push for an inclusive political transition in Syria, which would enable Syrian moderates from all sides to unite against extremism and tyranny.
2015	LibD	GP	Remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which includes a two-state solution. We condemn disproportionate force used by all sides. We condemn Hamas' rocket attacks and other targeting of Israeli civilians. We condemn Israel's continued illegal policy of settlement expansion, which undermines the possibility of a two- state solution.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			We support recognition of the independent State of Palestine as and when it will help the prospect of a two-state solution.
2015	LibD	GP	Support multilateral negotiations to stop Iran obtaining nuclear weapons. We will continue to seek normalisation of our diplomatic relations with Iran, including reopening the British Embassy in Tehran and promoting peaceful dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia.
2015	LibD	GP	The UK must be able to defend itself and the territories for which it has responsibility, support its neighbours and allies,
2015	LibD	LI	and engage in humanitarian intervention
2015	LibD	Other	and the UK is more effective and more resilient when we work closely with those partners.
2015	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats are clear that the security offered by our continued membership of the EU is more crucial than ever, as are our bilateral relationships with our key European allies. We favour greater integration of military capabilities and procurement to address common problems, to overcome economic constraints and to maintain a full spectrum of defence capabilities. To achieve this, we will build on the treaty-based arrangements we have established and extend this cooperation to other suitable European partners.
2015	LibD	GP	Liberal Democrats are committed to meeting our national and international obligations in security and defence.
2015	LibD	FAUS	This is why in government over the last five years we met the NATO commitment to spend 2% of our GDP on defence, most recently restated in the Readiness Action Plan and Defence Industrial Pledge at the Wales NATO Summit in 2014.
2015	LibD	GP	Conduct a Strategic Defence and Security Review in which we will revisit and update the Future Force 2020 vision and ensure the capabilities we are invested in are relevant for keeping Britain safe.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	GP	Maintain strong and effective armed forces and the capability to deploy rapidly expeditionary forces.
2015	LibD	GP	Recognise the expansion of warfare into the cybersphere, by investing in our security and intelligence services and acting to counter cyber attacks.
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	Remain fully engaged in international nuclear disarmament efforts.
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	Step down the nuclear ladder by procuring fewer Vanguard successor submarines
2015	LibD	GP	and moving from continuous at sea deterrence to a contingency posture of regular patrols, enabling a surge to armed patrols when the international security context makes this appropriate.
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	This would help us to fulfil our Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty commitments and reduce the UK nuclear warhead stockpile.
2015	LibD	TL (arms)	Work for new global standards to end the use of conventional explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas.
2015	LibD	RPEU	Promote European defence integration where appropriate by enhancing European defence industry co-operation.
2015	LibD	RPEU	Britain's membership of the EU is essential for creating a stronger economy and for projecting influence in the world.
2015	LibD	RPEU	A modernised EU is crucial to responding to the global challenges Britain faces, whether they are climate change, cross-border crime and terrorism, or conflict.
2015	LibD	RPEU	If the UK were to leave the EU, trade rules would be made without us, our voice would not be heard in climate change negotiations and our borders would be more vulnerable. There is no doubt the UK would be poorer and weaker if we walked away from our closest neighbours and most trusted allies and left the EU.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	RPEU	Only by remaining fully engaged in the EU can we deliver the further reforms that are urgently needed not only for the UK, but also for the rest of the EU.
2015	LibD	GLTS	Work to deepen the EU single market in the energy sector, in the digital economy and for services. We will boost British exports by scrapping national barriers to British firms trading online and by concluding ambitious EU trade agreements with key markets like Japan and India. We will implement the recommendations made by Michael Moore MP in October 2014, including publishing an annual European Business White Paper and appointing an EU Business Minister to lead this competitiveness agenda.
2015	LibD	GLTS	Support negotiations at the World Trade Organisation as well as an ambitious Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the USA, which could bring benefits of up to £10 billion a year to the British economy. We will only support an agreement that upholds EU standards of consumer, employee and environmental protection, and allows us to determine how NHS services are provided.
2015	LibD	GLTS	Continue to reduce the burden of EU legislation on business by curbing unnecessary red tape, exempting small businesses from EU rules where possible and defending the UK opt-out to the Working Time Directive.
2015	LibD	RPEU (scep)	Hold an In/Out referendum when there is next any Treaty change involving a material transfer of sovereignty from the UK to the EU.
2015	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats will campaign for the UK to remain in the European Union when that referendum comes.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Cooperate with other European countries to address environmental threats and tackle climate change by securing agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and developing the EU Energy Union.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	RPEU	Support EU free movement, which is hugely beneficial to millions of British citizens living in other European countries as well as to the British economy and the public sector, for example the thousands of European health workers who make a vital contribution to the running of the NHS.
2015	LibD	RPEU	Cooperate with other European countries to address the pressure of migration across the Mediterranean. We will push for more effective EU measures to prevent the tragic loss of life for many crossing the Mediterranean, including through greater cooperation with anti-human-trafficking operations.
2015	LibD	RPEU	Continue to work closely with other EU governments on foreign policy issues towards Russia, Ukraine, the Middle East and North Africa. We will build on our already close defence cooperation with France, the Netherlands, the Nordic states and other European countries, as the most reliable basis for British security.
2015	LibD	TL	In government, Liberal Democrats have led the way on international development and aid. We have worked to end the use of rape as a weapon of war. We have led international efforts to tackle the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone and, through investment in the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI), Britain is a global leader in preventing communicable diseases.
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	Now, we need to build on progress made since the agreement of the Millennium Development Goals and work to eliminate absolute poverty by 2030 – through aid but also through economic development.
2015	LibD	GLTS	Continue to promote private sector economic development, ensuring this benefits local people and small businesses not just multinational corporations.
2015	LibD	TL (eco)	We will lead international action to ensure global companies pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, including tightening anti-tax haven rules and requiring large companies to publish their tax payments and profits for each country in which they operate.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	Maintain our commitment to spend 0.7% of UK Gross National Income on overseas development, which the International Development Act 2015, introduced by a Liberal Democrat, now enshrines in law. We will adhere to the OECD's definition of what activities qualify.
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	Conduct a full Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Review to ensure that the Department for International Development continues to work in the right places and through the right channels.
2015	LibD	TL	Continue building the resilience of poorer countries to resist future disasters, investing in healthcare and infrastructure and training emergency response volunteers, and respond generously to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur.
2015	LibD	TL	Work to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals aim to:
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Safeguard the sustainability of the planet.
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	Leave no one behind, helping the most vulnerable as well as improving average living standards. We will ensure people do not suffer discrimination or disadvantage because of gender, sexual orientation, disability or ethnic origin.
2015	LibD	TL (dev)	Eliminate absolute poverty by 2030.
2015	LibD	TL	Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support public and private research and development into treatment for these and other deadly diseases and infections.
2015	LibD	TL	Create a new civil society partnership scheme to build links between peoples in rich and poor countries, including partnerships between communities, trade unions or emergency services.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	The open and internationalist approach Liberal Democrats have always adopted is particularly crucial when it comes to environmental policy.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Continue pushing for a 50% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and the greater use of EU funds to support low-carbon investments, while ensuring the UK meets its own climate commitments and plays a leadership role in efforts to combat climate change.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Work to secure agreement on a global climate treaty at the 2015 UN Climate Conference, supported by a well-financed Green Climate Fund to assist poorer countries to tackle and adapt to climate change.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Work with regulatory bodies and financial investors to establish a global reporting standard for fossil fuel companies on the potential impact of future restrictions on carbon emissions on their asset base.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Provide greater resources for international environmental cooperation, particularly on actions to tackle illegal trade in timber, wildlife and fish.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Argue for an EU and global target of halting net global deforestation by 2020 – including supporting better forest law enforcement and governance and sustainable agriculture, closing loopholes in the EU Timber Regulation and ensuring that by 2020 only legal and sustainable timber products can be sold in the UK.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Ensure UK and EU development aid, free trade and investment agreements support environmental goals and sustainable investment, including maintaining the UK's International Climate Fund and supporting direct bilateral programmes with developing countries on climate change.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Create a one million square kilometre southern Atlantic Ocean reserve.
2015	LibD	TL (enviro)	Push for the creation of a marine nature reserve in the Arctic Ocean, promote the highest possible environmental standards for UK companies operating in the region and press for a ban on EU-flagged vessels undertaking industrial fishing in the previously unfished areas of the Arctic.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2015	LibD	LI	Liberal Democrats believe British foreign policy and international aid should seek to advance human rights and democracy throughout the world. We believe all people – regardless of ethnicity, disability, age, belief, gender or sexual orientation – deserve a freer, fairer and more prosperous world.
2015	LibD	LI	Continue to support free media and a free and open Internet around the world, championing the free flow of information.
2015	LibD	Other	Maintain funding to BBC World Service, BBC Monitoring and the British Council.
2015	LibD	LI	Develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world, and advancing the cause of LGBT+ rights.
2015	LibD	LI	Prioritise support, protection and equal rights for women and girls, which is essential for effective, sustainable economic development. We will pursue an International Gender Equality Strategy, work to secure women’s rights to education and freedom from forced marriage; and aim to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation.
2015	LibD	TL (eco)	Extend existing reporting rules to establish consistent requirements on all large UK companies to report on the social, environmental and human rights impacts of their activities and those of their supply chains.
2015	LibD	LI	We will appoint an Ambassador-level Champion for Freedom of Belief to drive British diplomatic efforts in this field, and we will campaign for the abolition of blasphemy, sedition, apostasy and criminal libel laws worldwide, having already been responsible for ending them in this country.
2017	Con	ISOL	The best possible deal for Britain as we leave the European Union delivered by a smooth, orderly Brexit.
2017	Con	TL (dev)	Global leadership on development, backed by spending 0.7 per cent of our national income with new rules to spend it more effectively.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Con	GP	Strong defence, meeting our NATO target of at least 2 per cent of GDP and increasing spending by at least half a per cent more than inflation every year.
2017	Con	Other	The United Kingdom is embarking upon another era in our centuries-old story.
2017	Con	ISOL	We are leaving the European Union.
2017	Con	RPEU	We want to ensure our departure is smooth and orderly and to agree a deep and special partnership with the 27 remaining member states.
2017	Con	Other	In leaving the European Union, we have chosen a truly global role for Britain.
2017	Con	GLTS	To strike trade deals with old friends and new partners
2017	Con	Other	and take a leading position in the world to defend British interests, we must be strong and united.
2017	Con	RPEU	the prime minister laid out the twelve principles she intends to follow in seeking a new deep and special partnership with the European Union.
2017	Con	RPEU	We want to agree a deep and special partnership with the European Union. This partnership will benefit both the European Union and the United Kingdom: while we are leaving the European Union, we are not leaving Europe, and we want to remain committed partners and allies to our friends across the continent.
2017	Con	ISOL	but we continue to believe that no deal is better than a bad deal for the UK.
2017	Con	ISOL	We will make sure we have certainty and clarity over our future, control of our own laws, and a more unified, strengthened United Kingdom. We will control immigration
2017	Con	RPEU	and secure the entitlements of EU nationals in Britain and British nationals in the EU.
2017	Con	Other	We will maintain the Common Travel Area and maintain as frictionless a border as possible for people, goods and services between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Con	GLTS	We will pursue free trade with European markets, and secure new trade agreements with other countries.
2017	Con	RPEU	We want to work together in the fight against crime and terrorism, collaborate in science and innovation – and secure a smooth, orderly Brexit.
2017	Con	LI	And we will protect the democratic freedom of the people of Gibraltar and our overseas territories to remain British, for as long as that is their wish.
2017	Con	RPEU	As we leave the European Union, we will no longer be members of the single market or customs union but we will seek a deep and special partnership including a comprehensive free trade and customs agreement. There may be specific European programmes in which we might want to participate and if so, it will be reasonable that we make a contribution. We will determine a fair settlement of the UK's rights and obligations as a departing member state, in accordance with the law and in the spirit of the UK's continuing partnership with the EU.
2017	Con	ISOL	The principle, however, is clear: the days of Britain making vast annual contributions to the European Union will end.
2017	Con	RPEU	We want fair, orderly negotiations, minimising disruption and giving as much certainty as possible – so both sides benefit.
2017	Con	ISOL	Our laws will be made in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, and interpreted by judges across the United Kingdom, not in Luxembourg.
2017	Con	ISOL	but we will consider our human rights legal framework when the process of leaving the EU concludes
2017	Con	RPEU	We will remain signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights for the duration of the next parliament.
2017	Con	Other	The United Kingdom is a global nation. Our history is a global history; our future must be global too. We believe Britain should play an active, leading role in the world. Not because it is our right

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			or inheritance, but because our leadership in the world is the surest way to defend and advance the interests of the British people,
2017	Con	LI	and to extend around the world those values that we believe to be right.
2017	Con	Other	The United Kingdom is already a global power. We have a leading diplomatic service and one of the largest overseas development budgets in the world.
2017	Con	GP	Our armed forces are respected around the world and enable us to project power globally.
2017	Con	GLTS	Our global businesses and London's position as the global centre of finance make us more interconnected with the global economy than any other comparable nation.
2017	Con	LI	Britain is already a significant influence for good around the world.
2017	Con	TL	Our aid is giving millions an education and an opportunity to rise out of poverty.
2017	Con	GP	Our naval vessels are stopping the vile trade in people and in drugs
2017	Con	TL (enviro)	. We are at the forefront of action against global climate change.
2017	Con	LI	We can and should do more, not just because acting as a force for good is an important end in itself but because the result will be greater peace and prosperity for the British people. We will continue to champion British values around the globe: freedom, democracy, tolerance and the rule of law.
2017	Con	GLTS	We will be the world's foremost champion of free trade.
2017	Con	GP	We will expand our global efforts to combat extremism, terror, and the perpetration of violence against people because of their faith, gender or sexuality.
2017	Con	TL (enviro)	We will continue to lead international action against climate change, and the degradation of habitat and loss of species

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Con	TL	We will continue to lead a global campaign for the education of women and girls, which is the key to progress in so many countries. We will lead the fight against modern slavery, just as we overcame the trade in slaves two hundred years ago. We will lead a global effort to close down online spaces for those who abuse children, incite violence or propagate hate speech. We shall lead the world in the hard work to end extreme child poverty
2017	Con	TL	and co-ordinate efforts against microbial resistance and emerging tropical diseases. And we will take up leadership in a new arena, where concern is shared around the world: we will be the global leader in the regulation of the use of personal data and the internet.
2017	Con	Other	The security and prosperity of the United Kingdom is built on the international institutions that we helped to found and will continue to help maintain: the United Nations and the UN Security Council, NATO – the cornerstone of our defence, the Commonwealth, the G20, G7 and the World Trade Organization.
2017	Con	SQP	We will continue to give strong support to an international order in which rules govern state conduct; in our own behaviour we will support this system and apply it in a principled way.
2017	Con	TL	We shall continue to seek to reform multilateral institutions, especially in the way they distribute development funds, so that money is used to greatest effect to protect and help the world's most vulnerable people.
2017	Con	RPEU	Alongside our proposed deep and special partnership with the European Union,
2017	Con	Other	we will maintain the historical, cultural and economic ties that link us to our old friends and allies around the globe.
2017	Con	FAUS	We will build upon our existing special relationship with the United States,
2017	Con	other	and forge new economic and security partnerships that make us more prosperous at home and more secure abroad.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Con	LC	We will strengthen our close links with our Commonwealth allies, continuing our mission together to promote democratic values around the world and build on our existing economic relationships to further our common trading interests.
2017	Con	Other	We will develop alliances and co-operate more with old friends and new partners.
2017	Con	GLTS	The United Kingdom will be a global champion for an open economy, free trade, and the free flow of investment, ideas and information.
2017	Con	GLTS	We believe the UK must seize the unique opportunities it has to forge a new set of trade and investment relationships around the world, building a global, outward- looking Britain.
2017	Con	Other	We will continue to promote those institutions and ensure they have the resources they need to amplify Britain's voice on the world stage
2017	Con	LI	and as a global force for good.
2017	Con	LI	We will continue to promote democracy, the rule of law, property entitlements, a free and open media, and accountable institutions in countries and societies across the world.
2017	Con	Other	We will place the BBC World Service and the British Council on a secure footing so they are able to promote the best of British values around the globe and build strong ties between our local communities and other countries.
2017	Con	TL (dev)	British aid helps millions and is a powerful statement of Global Britain's place in the world. It protects our interests: by building a safer, healthier, more prosperous world, we can protect our own people from disease, conflict and instability. This is the right ambition for a country with a global outlook, so we will maintain the commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of our gross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies.
2017	Con	TL (dev)	We will continue to use our aid budget in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, to end extreme poverty, save children's lives, and provide an education for girls.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Con	TL	We will work to end the subjugation and mutilation of women, to combat the brutal slave trade in fellow human beings
2017	Con	TL (enviro)	and to prevent catastrophic environmental degradation.
2017	Con	TL	And we will continue to lead global efforts to tackle sexual violence in conflict.
2017	Con	TL	A global Britain should aspire to do even more: we will significantly increase our funding of UK-led medical and technical research into the biggest threats to global health and prosperity.
2017	Con	TL	So we will work with like-minded countries to change the rules so that they are updated and better reflect the breadth of our assistance around the world.
2017	Con	TL (dev)	while continuing to meet our 0.7 per cent target.
2017	Con	LI	and, as we do so, increase the number of people we help in the most troubled regions
2017	Con	TL	We will continue to work with other countries in Europe, and the United Nations, to review the international legal definitions of asylum and refugee status.
2017	Con	TL (enviro)	The United Kingdom will lead the world in environmental protection. As Conservatives, we are committed to leaving the environment in better condition than we inherited it. That is why we will continue to take a lead in global action against climate change, as the government demonstrated by ratifying the Paris Agreement. We were the first country to introduce a Climate Change Act, which Conservatives helped to frame, and we are halfway towards meeting our 2050 goal of reducing emissions by eighty per cent from 1990 levels.
2017	Con	TL (enviro)	We will champion greater conservation co-operation within international bodies, protecting rare species, the polar regions and international waters. We will work with our Overseas Territory governments to create a Blue Belt of marine protection in their precious waters, establishing the largest marine sanctuaries anywhere in the world.
2017	Con	TL	The UK is a global leader in fighting the evil trade in human beings – both around the world and in our own country – for sex and labour exploitation. As home secretary, Theresa May brought



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			forward the Modern Slavery Act, the first of its kind in Europe, appointed the world's first anti-slavery commissioner and set up the Modern Slavery Taskforce to bring together the heads of MI5, MI6 and the National Crime Agency to co- ordinate our response to criminal gangs operating across the world.
2017	Con	TL	We now need to go further. We need to focus on the exploitation of vulnerable men, women and children for their labour, people who are moved around our own country and between nations, as if they were not human at all. We will review the application of exploitation in the Modern Slavery Act to strengthen our ability to stop criminals putting men, women and children into criminal, dangerous and exploitative working conditions.
2017	Con	TL	And the UK will use its power to push the United Nations and other international bodies to make Modern Slavery a thing of the past.
2017	Con	GP	As a global power, we have a responsibility to sustain our fine armed forces so that they can defend the realm, our overseas territories and our interests around the globe.
2017	Con	FAUS	We will play a leading role in NATO
2017	Con	GP	and maintain the ability to conduct strike operations, peacekeeping, security missions and the deployment of a joint expeditionary force. We will maintain the overall size of the armed forces, including an army that is capable of fielding a war-fighting division. We shall expand our reach around the world. We will retain the Trident continuous-at-sea nuclear deterrent to provide the ultimate guarantee of our security.
2017	Con	GP	We will continue to meet the NATO commitment to spend at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence and we will increase the defence budget by at least 0.5 per cent above inflation in every year of the new parliament.
2017	Con	GP	We plan to invest £178 billion in new military equipment over the next decade, creating high-skilled jobs across the whole country. For the first time in a generation the Royal Navy is growing. We have cut steel on the first of a new fleet of four Dreadnought ballistic missile boats

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			and we will complete the Astute class of hunter-killer submarines. Our two new aircraft carriers will project British military power for the next fifty years: HMS Queen Elizabeth begins sea trials in the summer and HMS Prince of Wales is due to enter active service in 2020. Alongside our new Type 45 destroyers, we will build eight Type 26 anti-submarine frigates and develop our programme for a new class of lighter, general purpose frigates so that by the 2030s we can further increase the size of our fleet. We shall also deliver five Offshore Patrol Vessels.
2017	Con	GP	For the Army we will deliver AJAX armoured vehicles, Apache attack helicopters, new drones, new missile and bomb systems, and better equipment for the Special Forces. The Royal Air Force will receive, with the Fleet Air Arm, the Lightning II strike fighter, as well as new Maritime Patrol Aircraft. Taken together, this is the largest programme of investment in our armed forces for generations.
2017	Lab	Other	Labour accepts the referendum result and a Labour government will put the national interest first.
2017	Lab	RPEU	build a close new relationship with the EU
2017	Lab	RPEU	We will scrap the Conservatives' Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities that have a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union
2017	Lab	RPEU	Labour recognises that leaving the EU with 'no deal' is the worst possible deal for Britain and that it would do damage to our economy and trade. We will reject 'no deal' as a viable option and if needs be negotiate transitional arrangements to avoid a 'cliff-edge' for the UK economy.
2017	Lab	RPEU	The issues that affect our continent now will continue to do so in the future – and Labour will continue to work constructively with the EU and other European nations on issues such as climate change, refugee crises and counter-terrorism. We will build a close co-operative future relationship with the EU, not as members but as partners.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Lab	RPEU	A Labour government will ensure that the UK maintains our leading research role by seeking to stay part of Horizon 2020 and its successor programmes and by welcoming research staff to the UK. □We will seek to maintain membership of (or equivalent relationships with) □European organisations which offer benefits to the □□ such as □Euratom and the European Medicines Agency. We will seek to ensure that Britain remains part of the Erasmus scheme so that British students have the same educational opportunities after we leave the EU.
2017	Lab	GLTS	A Labour government will end the uncertainty for our farmers and food producers by securing continued EU market access allowing British farmers and food producers to continue to sell their products on the Continent.
2017	Lab	RPEU	Labour recognises the vital role that cross-border agencies such as Eurojust and Europol have played in making Britain safer and that European Arrest Warrants have been invaluable. A Labour government will seek to retain membership of these agencies and continue European Arrest Warrant arrangements.
2017	Lab	Other	In particular Labour will ensure there is no return to a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and that there is no change in the status or sovereignty of Gibraltar. We will also protect Gibraltar's economy and ensure that its government can continue to create jobs and prosperity in the years to come.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Labour is pro-trade and pro-investment. □The UK□□'s future prosperity depends on minimising tariff and non-tariff barriers that prevent us from exporting and creating the jobs and economic growth we need.
2017	Lab	GLTS	As our trading relationship with the EU changes it is vital that we retain unrestricted access for our goods and services.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Through our Just Trading initiative launched in 2016, Labour will work with global trading partners to develop □best-in-class' free trade and investment agreements that remove trade barriers and promote skilled jobs and high standards.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Lab	TL (eco)	We will ensure all future trade deals safeguard the right to regulate in the public interest and to protect public services.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Labour is committed to the rules-based international trading system of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). We will rejoin the Government Procurement Agreement, whilst safeguarding the capacity for public bodies to make procurement decisions in keeping with public policy objectives.
2017	Lab	TL (eco)	Labour will build human rights and social justice into trade policy. We will ensure that trade agreements cannot undermine human rights and labour standards, and that UK Export Finance support is not available to companies engaged in bribery or corrupt practices.
2017	Lab	GLTS	We will work with other WTO members to end the dumping of state-subsidised goods on our markets.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Labour will champion the export interests of SMEs, ensuring all new trade agreements include a commitment to support their market access needs. We will develop an export incentive scheme for SMEs based on international best practice, and we will ring-fence Tradeshow Access Programme grants to help SMEs reach new customers around the world.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Labour will use the full range of export credit, finance, insurance and trade promotion tools to boost British exports and support priority industrial sectors.
2017	Lab	GLTS	We will create a network of regional trade and investment champions to promote the export and investment interests of businesses across the country, and we will include regional representation on overseas trade missions.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Labour is committed to growing the digital economy and ensuring that trade agreements do not impede cross-border data flows, whilst maintaining strong data protection rules to protect personal privacy.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Lab	TL (enviro)	As part of our commitment to a low-carbon future, we will actively support international negotiations towards an Environmental Goods Agreement at the WTO. Labour will use trade negotiations to boost market access for British environmental goods and services, alongside support for investment into new green technologies and innovative low-carbon products.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Labour will develop capital investment schemes and other incentives to encourage investment into the UK, especially into target areas identified by the industrial strategy. We will champion the UK as a safe investment environment.
2017	Lab	GLTS	Labour will review our historic investment treaties with other countries, ensuring they are fit for purpose for the 21st century. Labour opposes parallel investor-state dispute systems for multinational corporations and we will open a dialogue with trading partners on alternative options that provide investor protection whilst guaranteeing equality before the law.
2017	Lab	GP	Labour will take all necessary measures to protect the security of our citizens and country.
2017	Lab	GP	We will put conflict resolution
2017	Lab	LI	and human rights at the heart of foreign policy,
2017	Lab	SQP	commit to working through the UN,
2017	Lab	Other	end support for unilateral aggressive wars of intervention
2017	Lab	LI	and back□ effective action to alleviate the refugee crisis.
2017	Lab	Other	Labour believes Britain's foreign policy should be guided by the values of peace,
2017	Lab	LI	universal rights
2017	Lab	SQP	and international law.
2017	Lab	Other	As we leave the European Union, keeping Britain global is one of our country's most urgent tasks.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Lab	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> We cannot seek to solve the world's problems on our own, but instead must exhaust diplomatic solutions alongside international, regional and local partners within the framework of international law.
2017	Lab	Other	We are deeply ambitious for our country's future and will draw on our international networks to make Britain a champion of multilateral engagement.
2017	Lab	Other	We will invest in the UK's diplomatic services, rebuilding some of the key capabilities lost as a result of Tory cuts.
2017	Lab	FAUS	Since the Second World War, Britain's most important diplomatic relationship has been with the US.
2017	Lab	GP	When the current Trump administration chooses to ignore them, whether by discriminating on the basis of religion or breaking its climate change commitments, we will not be afraid to disagree.
2017	Lab	GP	Labour will work tirelessly to end the conflict and get the diplomatic process back on track, while fully supporting international efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of war crimes.
2017	Lab	LI	Labour is strongly committed to reducing human suffering caused by war. We will publish a strategy for protecting civilians in conflict, setting out detailed plans for work on conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict peacebuilding, and justice for the victims of war crimes. Labour has created a Minister for Peace and Disarmament to lead this work.
2017	Lab	GP	Labour is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution – a secure Israel alongside a secure and viable state of Palestine.
2017	Lab	GP	Labour will continue to press for an immediate return to meaningful negotiations leading to a diplomatic resolution. A Labour government will immediately recognise the state of Palestine.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Lab	GP	We will also urge negotiations towards a political resolution in all other regions currently experiencing conflict, including □Kashmir, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, and give our strong support to those countries already working to end decades of division, including Colombia, Cyprus and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
2017	Lab	GP	Under a Labour government, Britain will work to reduce those tensions through an insistence on multilateral political dialogue.
2017	Lab	GP	We will take all lawful action necessary to counter and confront this evil, and we will advocate a long-term multinational political strategy, led by regional actors, to tackle the spread of extremism.
2017	Lab	LI	In our discussions with different governments, including China, Egypt, the Gulf States, Myanmar, the Philippines, Russia and Turkey, we will urge respect for human rights and the rule of law. We will review all training and equipment contracts with repressive regimes, to ensure that Britain never colludes in the mistreatment of civilians.
2017	Lab	Other	We will always stand up for the rights, interests and self-determination of Britain's overseas territories and their citizens, whether protecting the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands against anyone who would seek to challenge it, or supporting the right of the Chagos islanders to return to their homelands.
2017	Lab	TL (enviro)	We will reclaim Britain's leading role in tackling climate change, working hard to preserve the Paris Agreement and deliver on international commitments to reduce emissions while mitigating the impacts of climate change on developing countries.
2017	Lab	SQP	While strengthening our commitment to the UN, we also acknowledge its shortcomings, particularly in light of repeated abuses of the veto power by some permanent members of the UN Security Council. We will work with our international partners to build support for UN reform and make its institutions more effective and responsive.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Lab	LI	We will appoint dedicated global ambassadors for women’s rights, LGBT rights and religious freedom to fight discrimination and promote equality globally.
2017	Lab		Exports, trade and investment play a vital role in creating jobs and growth in Britain
2017	Lab	TL (arms)	Labour will therefore implement the Arms Trade Treaty to a consistently high standard, including ceasing arms exports to countries where there is concern that they will be used to violate international humanitarian law (IHL).
2017	Lab	GP	In particular, Labour will demand a comprehensive, independent, UN-led investigation into alleged violations of IHL in Yemen, including air strikes on civilians by the Saudi-led coalition. We will immediately suspend any further arms sales for use in the conflict until that investigation is concluded.
2017	Lab	GP	Cyber security will form an integral part of our defence and security strategy and we will introduce a cyber-security charter for companies working with the Ministry of Defence.
2017	Lab	GP	We will ensure that our armed forces are properly equipped and resourced to respond to wide-ranging security challenges.
2017	Lab	SQP	Labour will commit to effective □UN peacekeeping, including support for a UN Emergency Peace Service.
2017	Lab	RPEU	As the security threats and challenges we face are not bound by geographic borders, it is vital that as Britain leaves the EU, we maintain our close relationship with our European partners. Alongside our commitment to NATO, we will continue to work with the EU on a range of operational missions to promote and support global and regional security.
2017	Lab	GP	Labour’s commitment to spending at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence will guarantee that our Armed Forces have the necessary capabilities to fulfil the full range of obligations, and ensure our conventional forces are versatile and able to deploy in a range of roles.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			Labour supports the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent.
2017	Lab	TL (arms)	As a nuclear-armed power, our country has a responsibility to fulfil our obligations under the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty. Labour will lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear-free world.
2017	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour has a proud record on international development. We will continue to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on social development assistance, and develop a targeted development agenda based on the principles of redistribution, social justice, women’s rights and poverty reduction.
2017	Lab	TL (dev)	Labour will take robust action to end the self-regulation of Department for International Development private contractors, establishing and enforcing new rules to ensure aid is used to reduce poverty for the many, not to increase profits for the few.
2017	Lab	TL	We fully support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed globally to eradicate poverty and protect the environment. Labour will develop a cross-government strategy for ensuring the SDGs are implemented, and report annually to Parliament on our performance.
2017	Lab	GTS	In the wake of Brexit, to fulfil our national obligations under the SDGs, Labour will guarantee the least developed countries continued access to the UK market to protect vital export revenues.
2017	Lab	LI	This is a failure of diplomacy, conflict resolution and of human rights, which is why they will be at the heart of Labour’s foreign policy.
2017	Lab	LI	In the first 100 days of government, we will produce a cross-departmental strategy to meet our international obligations on the refugee crisis.
2017	Lab	TL (eco)	Labour will act decisively on tax havens, introducing strict standards of transparency for crown dependencies and overseas territories, including a public register of owners, directors, major shareholders and beneficial owners for all companies and trusts.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	Lab	TL	We will work in partnership with communities in the Global South to develop long-term strategies for strengthening economies and societies. We would reinstate the Civil Society Challenge Fund to support trade unions, women’s associations and other civil society organisations which are the most effective forces in winning human rights and workers’ rights.
2017	Lab	TL (eco)	Labour is committed to ensuring respect for human rights, workers’ rights and environmental sustainability in the operations of British businesses around the world, and we will work to tighten the rules governing corporate accountability for abuses in global supply chains.
2017	Lab	TL (eco)	Labour will work with business to ensure the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act are fully respected, including reporting on due diligence in supply chains. We will extend the remit of the Groceries Code Adjudicator beyond direct suppliers to ensure fair treatment for all those producing goods for the UK’s largest supermarkets.
2017	Lab	TL	We will establish a Centre for Universal Health Coverage, providing global partnerships, support and encouragement to countries that want UHC, helping them to generate the funding and systems required for its delivery.
2017	Lab	TL	We will invest in new public-health driven research and development to find effective and affordable treatments for diseases in the developing world, including fighting TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS and neglected tropical diseases.
2017	LibD	Other	Liberal Democrats are open and outward-looking.
2017	LibD	RPEU	We passionately believe that Britain’s relationship with its neighbours is stronger as part of the European Union. Whatever its imperfections, the EU remains the best framework for working effectively and co-operating in the pursuit of our shared aims
2017	LibD	RPEU	Britain is better off in the EU.
2017	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats campaigned for the UK to remain in the EU.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	LibD	RPEU	This means leaving the single market, ending freedom of movement and abandoning the customs union – even though these choices will make the UK poorer and disappoint many leave voters who wanted a different outcome.
2017	LibD	RPEU	A hard Brexit will make all these problems worse. It is the wrong choice for the country. Liberal Democrats will fight to prevent a hard Brexit.
2017	LibD	RPEU	We continue to believe that there is no deal as good for the UK outside the EU as the one it already has as a member.
2017	LibD	RPEU	During negotiations, we commit ourselves to use our strength in parliament to press for keeping Britain as close as possible to Europe.
2017	LibD	RPEU	Membership of the single market and customs union: We believe that any deal negotiated for the UK outside the EU must ensure that trade can continue without customs controls at the border, and must maintain membership of the single market, which smooths trade between the UK and the continent by providing a common ‘rule book’ for businesses and a common mechanism to ensure that everyone abides by the rules.
2017	LibD	RPEU	Freedom of movement: We support the principle of freedom of movement – to abandon it would threaten Britain’s prosperity and reputation as an open, tolerant society. Any deal negotiated for the UK outside the EU must protect the right to work, travel, study and retire across the EU. Any restrictions sought by the government must take account of the vital importance of EU workers to the British economy, including public services.
2017	LibD	RPEU	To that end we will do everything we can to protect Erasmus+ and other EU-funded schemes which increase opportunities for young people.
2017	LibD	RPEU	including the closest possible co-operation on climate and energy policy.
2017	LibD	RPEU	Law enforcement and judicial co-operation: Europol, the European Arrest Warrant and shared access to police databases have helped make Britain’s streets safer. We will fight to maintain

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			maximum co-operation to ensure criminals are pursued quickly and effectively, and police are not frustrated by huge amounts of red tape.
2017	LibD	GLTS	The City of London is Europe's financial capital and must retain its full rights in EU financial markets.
2017	LibD	Other	Britain is an outward-looking country with commercial and leisure interests around the world, particularly in Europe.
2017	LibD	Other	Liberal Democrats are internationalists – we understand that by working together, people and countries can achieve so much more than they can alone.
2017	LibD	SQP	With the election of Donald Trump and an increasingly assertive Russia, we must work to defend the international liberal order.
2017	LibD	Other	The Liberal Democrat approach to Britain's place in the world is patriotic, optimistic and progressive.
2017	LibD	Other	We will work with our European and other international partners to promote the ideals that bring us together and make us more secure
2017	LibD	LI	– championing human rights,
2017	LibD	TL (dev)	helping the poorest people in the world
2017	LibD	GP	and protecting our country and our allies.
2017	LibD	Other	Defending international co-operation against the rising tides of nationalism and isolationism,
2017	LibD	SQP	supporting multilateral organisations like the UN and NATO which are increasingly under threat.
2017	LibD	TL (dev)	Spending 0.7% of gross national income on aid: reducing poverty, defending human rights, protecting the environment and preventing violent conflict worldwide.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	LibD	TL (arms)	Controlling arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report and suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia.
2017	LibD	Other	The UK has a proud record of playing a leading role in the European Union and in international institutions like the UN, NATO and the Commonwealth and should continue to do so,
2017	LibD	LI	promoting wherever possible the liberal values of freedom and opportunity for all.
2017	LibD	SQP	Champion the rules-based international order, which provides a strong basis for multilateral action to address the world's most pernicious problems, including poverty, armed conflict, disease, climate change and the abuse of human rights, including forced marriage, so-called 'honour' killings, and female genital mutilation.
2017	LibD	GP	Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military co-operation – to strengthen UK efforts to prevent violent conflict.
2017	LibD	TL	Work with our international partners to address the ongoing refugee crisis, which has seen more people displaced across the world than ever before.
2017	LibD	LI	Support the UN principle of Responsibility to Protect, focusing on conflict prevention and only resorting to military intervention to prevent mass civilian atrocities if all other means of resolution have been fully exhausted.
2017	LibD	TL (arms)	Improve control of arms exports by:  Implementing a policy of 'presumption of denial' for arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report.  Enforcing end-user certification on all future arms export licences with an annual report to parliament on this certification.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			Creating a public register of arms brokers.
2017	LibD	LI	Liberal Democrats believe that despite efforts to prevent violent conflict, sometimes military intervention is necessary.
2017	LibD	SQP	The UK should only intervene militarily when there is a clear legal and/or humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in parliament, working through international institutions whenever possible.
2017	LibD	GP	We will encourage dialogue and mediation to reduce conflict between and within countries,
2017	LibD	SQP	working through the UN and other agencies.
2017	LibD	GP	Work with international partners to tackle violent extremism manifested by organisations like Daesh and Boko Haram, paying special attention to UK citizens who have fought overseas for terrorist organisations and may become significant sources of terrorist activity if and when they return to Britain.
2017	LibD	GP	Seek new ways to bring an end to the conflict in Syria, working within the UN to break the deadlock in the Security Council. We will work to deter the use of chemical and conventional attacks on civilians and demand humanitarian access and the release of political prisoners and their families.
2017	LibD	GP	Remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which includes a two-state solution. We condemn disproportionate force used by all sides. We condemn Hamas' rocket attacks and other targeting of Israeli civilians. We condemn Israel's continued illegal policy of settlement expansion, which undermines the possibility of a two-state solution. We support recognition of the independent State of Palestine as and when it will help the prospect of a two-state solution.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	LibD	GP	Suspend UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in response to their consistent targeting of civilians, in breach of international humanitarian law, in Yemen. We will work with international partners to recommence the peace process in Yemen.
2017	LibD	GP	Promote democracy and stability in Ukraine and neighbouring countries against an increasingly aggressive Russia. We will work closely with European and other international partners to exert maximum economic and political pressure on Russia to stop interfering in the affairs of sovereign Eastern European nations,
2017	LibD	FAUS	and will stand by our obligations under the NATO treaty in the event of threats to NATO member states.
2017	LibD	GP	The UK must be able to defend itself and the territories for which it has responsibility, support its neighbours and allies,
2017	LibD	LI	and engage in humanitarian intervention
2017	LibD	Other	The security challenges the UK faces are shared by our partners and allies in the EU and NATO and the UK is more effective and more resilient when we work closely with those partners.
2017	LibD	GP	Commit to spending 2% of GDP on defence.
2017	LibD	GP	Strengthen our armed services and address critical skills shortages by recruiting STEM graduates to be armed forces engineers, providing 'golden handshakes' of up to £10,000
2017	LibD	GP	Recognise the expansion of warfare into the cybersphere, by investing in our security and intelligence services and acting to counter cyberattacks.
2017	LibD	TL (arms)	Work to lead international nuclear disarmament efforts.
2017	LibD	GP	Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. We propose continuing with the Dreadnought programme, the submarine-based replacement for Vanguard, but procuring three boats instead of four and moving to a medium-readiness responsive posture. This would mean replacing

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			continuous at-sea deterrence – instead maintaining the deterrent through measures such as unpredictable and irregular patrolling patterns.
2017	LibD	RPEU	Build on the framework for defence co-operation that is already well- established with France, the Netherlands, Germany and other European partners, and promote European defence integration where appropriate by enhancing European defence industry co-operation.
2017	LibD	TL (dev)	Liberal Democrats have always been – and remain – strongly committed to ensuring justice and equity for poor people around the world. We believe that the UK must continue to play a leading role in ending poverty and promoting environmentally sustainable development, through implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
2017	LibD	TL (dev)	Maintain our commitment to spend 0.7% of UK gross national income on overseas development assistance, in line with the OECD definition, which we legislated for in the last parliament.
2017	LibD	TL	Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support research and development into vaccinations and treatment to combat these and other deadly diseases and infections.
2017	LibD	TL	Develop a global education strategy to address the urgent funding crisis causing 263 million children to miss out on schooling.
2017	LibD	TL (eco)	Lead international action to ensure global companies pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, including tightening anti-tax haven rules and requiring large companies to publish their tax payments and profits for each country in which they operate.
2017	LibD	TL	Continue building the resilience of poorer countries to resist future disasters, investing in healthcare and infrastructure and training emergency response volunteers, and respond generously to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur.



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2017	LibD	TL (enviro)	Provide greater resources for international environmental co-operation, particularly on climate change and on actions to tackle illegal and unsustainable trade in timber, wildlife, ivory and fish.
2017	LibD	TL	In light of the US government's dangerous and anti-science attacks on international programmes of vaccination and family planning, which impact disproportionately on the health of women and children, seek to protect global spending on these essential provisions.
2017	LibD	LI	Liberal Democrats believe that British foreign policy and international aid should seek to promote the liberal values of human rights and democracy throughout the world.
2017	LibD	LI	Support free media and a free and open internet around the world, championing the free flow of information.
2017	LibD	TL	Support the current UN initiative to protect journalists and to combat the impunity with which many countries treat those who attack reporters on the front line. To this end, we will provide ad hoc funding to UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication.
2017	LibD	LI	Campaign strongly for the abolition of the death penalty around the world.
2017	LibD	TL (eco)	Champion global anti-corruption initiatives to safeguard global security and economic development and maintain a strong voice in international platforms on ending corruption. We will implement outstanding commitments made by the British government at the 2016 Global Anti-Corruption Summit.
2017	LibD	TL (eco)	Publish a government anti-corruption strategy.
2017	LibD	TL	Introduce Sustainable Development Goals audits of new trade, investment and development deals, reviewing the impact of the deal on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.
2017	LibD	Other	Maintain funding for the BBC World Service, BBC Monitoring and the British Council.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2017	LibD	LI	Develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world and advancing the cause of LGBT+ rights.
2017	LibD	LI	Prioritise support, protection and equal rights for women and girls, which is both right and essential for effective, sustainable economic development. We will aim to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation.
2017	LibD	LI	Appoint an ambassador-level champion for freedom of belief to drive British diplomatic efforts in this field, and campaign for the abolition of blasphemy, sedition, apostasy and criminal libel laws worldwide, having already been responsible for ending them in this country.
2019	Con	Other	Our priority as Conservatives is to get Brexit done – so that we can unleash the potential of this great country.
2019	Con	ISOL	Boris Johnson’s new deal takes the whole country out of the EU as one United Kingdom. It takes us out of the customs union, allowing us to set our own tariffs and do our own trade deals. It allows us to pass our own laws and ensures that it is our courts that enforce them.
2019	Con	RPEU	It puts the whole country on a path to a new free trade agreement with the EU. This will be a new relationship based on free trade and friendly cooperation, not on the EU’s treaties or EU law.
2019	Con	ISOL	There will be no political alignment with the EU. We will keep the UK out of the single market, out of any form of customs union, and end the role of the European Court of Justice.
2019	Con	ISOL	Control our own trade policy.
2019	Con	ISOL	Introduce an Australian-style points- based immigration system.
2019	Con	ISOL	Ensure we are in full control of our fishing waters.
2019	Con	GLTS	We will negotiate a trade agreement next year – one that will strengthen our Union – and we will not extend the implementation period beyond December 2020.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Con	LI	we view our country as a force for good.
2019	Con	GP	The strength of the Armed Forces, our alliances with like-minded democracies and our willingness to act are all reasons for the UK to hold its head high.
2019	Con	TL	So too is our work in promoting international development and fighting climate change –
2019	Con	Other	And in an uncertain world, in which the threat of terrorism, rogue states and malign non-state actors is ever-present, it is vital that Britain stands up and is counted.
2019	Con	Other	Getting Brexit done will allow us to do more on the international stage. We will continue to be an outward-looking country
2019	Con	Other	that is a champion of collective security,
2019	Con	LI	the rule of law
2019	Con	LI	human rights,
2019	Con	GLTS	free trade,
2019	Con	TL (eco)	anti-corruption efforts
2019	Con	SQP	and a rules-based international system.
2019	Con	Other	After Brexit, we will bolster the alliances and institutions that help project our influence and keep us safe: the UN and the UN Security Council; NATO; the Commonwealth; Five Eyes; the G20; the G7; and the World Trade Organisation.
2019	Con	GLTS	We will open new markets and support free trade and global growth.
2019	Con	Other	We will build on our fantastic track record of delivering major international sporting events – including supporting the upcoming Commonwealth Games, UEFA European Women’s Championships and Rugby League World Cup – and we would back a potential UK and Ireland bid for the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Con	RPEU	we will reinvigorate relationships with Europe
2019	Con	Other	and seek to strengthen old and new partnerships across the world.
2019	Con	Other	We will work with our cultural institutions like the BBC and British Council to expand our influence and project our values.
2019	Con	GP	we will stand up to foreign countries that threaten the stability of Europe, or commit state-sanctioned murder on British soil.
2019	Con	GP	We will protect the British people at home and abroad, and also ensure that the democratic rights of people in Gibraltar, the Falklands and all our overseas territories are protected.
2019	Con	FAUS	We will continue to exceed the NATO target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence and increase the budget by at least 0.5 per cent above inflation every year of the new Parliament.
2019	Con	GP	We will modernise the equipment and improve the capability of our world-class Armed Forces and intelligence agencies.
2019	Con	GP	We will invest in training and equipping our Armed Forces, and constantly champion their exemplary contribution to our security and our country.
2019	Con	GP	We will maintain our Trident nuclear deterrent, which guarantees our security.
2019	Con	GP	We will adapt to new threats, investing more in cybersecurity and setting up the UK's first Space Command.
2019	Con	GP	We will stand against terrorism and extremism around the world.
2019	Con	GP	We will support the UK's world-class defence industry by investing in ambitious global programmes, including building the new Type 31 frigates in British shipyards such as Rosyth and a new generation of armoured vehicles, made in Britain.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Con	LI	From helping to end the slave trade to tackling modern slavery, the UK has long been a beacon of freedom and human rights – and will continue to be so. We are proud of our peace-building and humanitarian efforts around the world, particularly in war-torn or divided societies, and of our record in helping to reduce global poverty. We will continue to support international initiatives to achieve reconciliation, stability and justice across the world, and in current or former conflict zones such as Cyprus, Sri Lanka
2019	Con	GP	and the Middle East, where we maintain our support for a two-state solution.
2019	Con	LI	Once we leave the EU, we will champion these values even more strongly.
2019	Con	LI	We will further develop an independent Magnitsky-style sanctions regime to tackle human rights abusers head on.
2019	Con	TL	We will stand up for the right of every girl in the world to have 12 years of quality education.
2019	Con	LI	We will continue our campaigns to promote international media freedom and to eradicate human trafficking and the scourge of modern slavery.
2019	Con	LI	We will support marginalised communities in the developing world, hosting the UK government’s first ever international LGBT conference. We will seek to protect those persecuted for their faith and implement the Truro Review recommendations.
2019	Con	TL (dev)	We will proudly maintain our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI on development, and do more to help countries receiving aid become self-sufficient.
2019	Con	TL	Building on this Government’s existing efforts, we will end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030, and lead the way in eradicating Ebola and malaria.
2019	Con	Other	We will support the construction of the planned UK Holocaust Memorial.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Con	TL (enviro)	Conservation is, and always has been, at the heart of Conservatism. Our Government's stewardship of the natural environment, its focus on protecting the countryside and reducing plastic waste, is a source of immense pride.
2019	Con	TL (enviro)	Thanks to the efforts of successive Governments, the UK has cut carbon emissions by more than any similar developed country. We are now the world's leader in offshore wind – a fantastic success story of Government and the private sector working hand in hand to cut costs and deliver ever more electricity at plummeting costs.
2019	Con	TL (enviro)	we believe that free markets, innovation and prosperity can protect the planet.
2019	Con	TL (enviro)	We will lead the global fight against climate change by delivering on our world-leading target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as advised by the independent Committee on Climate Change. We have doubled International Climate Finance. And we will use our position hosting the UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in 2020 to ask our global partners to match our ambition.
2019	Con	TL (enviro)	We will set up new international partnerships to tackle deforestation and protect vital landscapes and wildlife corridors. We will establish a new £500 million Blue Planet Fund to help protect our oceans from plastic pollution, warming sea temperatures and overfishing, and extend the Blue Belt programme to preserve the maritime environment. We will continue to lead diplomatic efforts to protect 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030.
2019	Con	ISOL	For the first time in nearly half a century, the UK will have its own independent trade policy once we leave the EU.
2019	Con	GLTS	Free trade has been proven time and again to be the best way to increase exports, cut prices for consumers, increase investment and create jobs right here in the UK. We believe we can use this historic opportunity to connect the UK to the world's fastest-growing nations, create new export opportunities and enrich ourselves and our trading partners.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Con	GLTS	Now, we will be able to tailor our trade deals to the needs of British firms and the British economy.
2019	Con	TL (eco)	Our trade deals will not only be free but fair – in particular towards the developing nations whose economies could be transformed by access to the UK’s markets and expertise. We can, for example, include provisions in our new free trade agreements that promote the fair treatment of workers and advance women’s empowerment.
2019	Con	GLTS	Our goals for British trade are accordingly ambitious. We aim to have 80 per cent of UK trade covered by free trade agreements within the next three years, starting with the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. These will be negotiated in parallel with our EU deal.
2019	Con	GLTS	We will also forge stronger links with the Commonwealth, which boasts some of the world’s most dynamic economies such as India, with which we already share deep historical and cultural connections. We will use export finance to increase our businesses’ access to emerging markets and engage diaspora communities in the UK with this agenda.
2019	Con	GLTS	The UK is a world leader in many areas such as architecture, engineering, accountancy, information technology, digital services, law and the creative arts.
2019	Con	GLTS	Just as we led the way in opening up trade in manufactured goods in the last two centuries, we should open up trade in services, in which the majority of us work and where most new jobs will be created.
2019	Con	GLTS	We will also redouble our efforts to promote British business and UK exports and dismantle barriers to trade and retake our seat at the World Trade Organisation.
2019	Con	GLTS	We will seek to provide security to the British people in a world of heightened trade tensions and tariffs.
2019	Con	GLTS	We will seek to gain market access for British businesses and lower the cost of trade for them.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Con	GLTS	We will drive a hard bargain with all of our trading partners – and, as with all negotiations, we will be prepared to walk away if that is in the national interest.
2019	Con	GLTS	We will defend British industries from dumping and other anti- competitive practices from overseas.
2019	Con	TL (enviro)	In all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards.
2019	Lab	RPEU	Labour rules out a no-deal Brexit,
2019	Lab	RPEU	Only a Labour government can prevent this.
2019	Lab	Other	avoids a hard border in Northern Ireland and protects the Good Friday Agreement and the peace process
2019	Lab	Other	We will also ensure that there is no change in the status or sovereignty of Gibraltar.
2019	Lab	RPEU	Close alignment with the Single Market – ensuring we have a strong future economic relationship with the EU that can support UK businesses.
2019	Lab	RPEU	Continued participation in EU agencies and funding programmes, including in such vital areas of co-operation as the environment, scientific research and culture.
2019	Lab	RPEU	Clear commitments on future security arrangements, including access to the European Arrest Warrant and shared databases, making people safer at home and abroad.
2019	Lab	RPEU	Only Labour will offer the choice of remaining in the EU, or leaving with a sensible deal.
2019	Lab	RPEU (scep)	Labour will work with partners across Europe to make the case for radical reform of the EU – in particular to ensure that its collective strength is focused on tackling the climate emergency, tax evasion and ending austerity and inequality.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Lab	RPEU	The EU needs a new political direction and, if the people decide the UK should remain in the EU, Labour will lead the way to ensure that change.
2019	Lab	RPEU (scep)	If the country decides to remain, a Labour government will take a different approach and strive to ensure that the EU works for people across our communities.
2019	Lab	RPEU	If people decide to leave, a Labour government will work constructively with the EU on vital issues of mutual interest and to the mutual benefit of the UK and EU.
2019	Lab	ISOL	But we will leave the EU.
2019	Lab	LI	Labour will put human rights,
2019	Lab	SQP	international law
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	and tackling climate change at the heart of our international policies,
2019	Lab	Other	and use our global influence to end the ‘bomb first, talk later’ approach to security.
2019	Lab	GP	Labour will always do what is needed to protect the security of people in the UK.
2019	Lab	Other	International peace and security will be a primary objective of a Labour government’s foreign policy.
2019	Lab	LI	Our approach will be based on our values.
2019	Lab	Other	Conduct an audit of the impact of Britain’s colonial legacy to understand our contribution to the dynamics of violence and insecurity across regions previously under British colonial rule.
2019	Lab	Other	Invest an additional £400 million in our diplomatic capacity to secure Britain’s role as a country that promotes peace, delivers ambitious global climate agreements and works through international organisations to secure political settlements to critical issues.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Lab	Other	Internationalism is at the core of the Labour movement. We recognise our responsibility to confront injustices we see today and to correct the injustices of the past.
2019	Lab	Other	Establish a judge-led inquiry into our country's alleged complicity in rendition and torture, and the operation of secret courts.  Issue a formal apology for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and hold a public review into Britain's role in the Amritsar massacre.
2019	Lab	LI	Allow the people of the Chagos Islands and their descendants the right to return to the lands from which they should never have been removed.  Uphold the human rights of the people of West Papua and recognise the rights of the people of Western Sahara.
2019	Lab	Other	We have a duty to stand up for the security and sovereignty of our overseas territories, including the Falklands,
2019	Lab	LI	and for the rights of our citizens and dual-nationals abroad, and will continue fighting for justice on behalf of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and other British nationals wrongly imprisoned or suffering mistreatment in captivity abroad.
2019	Lab	LI	Human rights and international humanitarian law are fundamental pillars of a secure global system.
2019	Lab	TL (arms)	Immediately suspend the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen and to Israel for arms used in violation of the human rights of Palestinian civilians, and conduct a root-and-branch

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			reform of our arms exports regime so ministers can never again turn a blind eye to British-made weapons being used to target innocent civilians.
2019	Lab	TL	Reform the international rules-based order to secure justice and accountability for breaches of human rights and international law, such as the bombing of hospitals in Syria, the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, the use of rape as a weapon of war against the Rohingya community in Myanmar and the indiscriminate bombardment of civilians in Yemen.
2019	Lab	LI	We will work through the UN and the Commonwealth to insist on the protection of human rights for Sri Lanka's minority Tamil and Muslim populations.
2019	Lab	LI	Appoint human-rights advisers to work across the Foreign Office and government to prioritise a co-ordinated approach to human rights.
2019	Lab	LI	Advocate for human rights at every bilateral diplomatic meeting.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Britain's climate-change diplomacy was respected internationally, playing an important role in securing the Paris Agreement, following the leading role the UK played in securing the Kyoto Agreement.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Only Labour can rebuild Britain's leadership on the most serious threat to our shared humanity.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Rebuild our climate expertise within the Foreign Office, putting climate diplomacy at the heart of our foreign policy.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Use our influence at the UN, EU, G7, G20, World Bank, the Commonwealth and other global institutions to promote policies to tackle the climate emergency.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Use our diplomatic expertise to negotiate and deliver more ambitious global targets to deal with the climate emergency, starting with COP 26 in Glasgow next year.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Lab	GP	Labour is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a two- state solution – a secure Israel alongside a secure and viable state of Palestine.
2019	Lab	GP	Labour will continue to press for an immediate return to meaningful negotiations leading to a diplomatic resolution. A Labour government will immediately recognise the state of Palestine.
2019	Lab	GP	Labour will take all lawful action necessary to counter and confront all forms of terrorism, and we will advocate a long-term multinational political strategy, led by regional actors, to tackle the spread of extremism.
2019	Lab	GP	We believe effective diplomacy can address the drivers of conflict and insecurity.
2019	Lab	SQP	Build support for UN reform, including assessing and developing democratisation initiatives, and improving the engagement of the General Assembly in decision-making to ensure its institutions are more effective at achieving peace.
2019	Lab	GP	Prioritise our responsibility to prevent conflict by investing in local capacities for peacebuilding in areas of conflict – advocating for political, multilateral strategies for peace.
2019	Lab	GP	Act immediately to urge negotiations towards a political resolution to conflict wherever it arises, including in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.
2019	Lab	GP	The primary duty of government is to guarantee the security of people in the UK.
2019	Lab	GP	An incoming Labour government will undertake a Strategic Defence and Security Review to assess the security challenges facing Britain, including new forms of hybrid, cyber and remote warfare.
2019	Lab	Other	This review will also take account of the climate emergency, and associated threats of resource competition, involuntary migration and violent conflict.
2019	Lab	SQP	Labour will increase funding for UN peacekeeping operations to £100 million.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Lab	FAUS	We will maintain our commitment to NATO
2019	Lab	RPEU	our close relationship with our European partners,
2019	Lab	GP	and we will use our influence at the United Nations to support peace and security worldwide.
2019	Lab	GP	Labour supports the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent.
2019	Lab	TL (arms)	Labour will also actively lead multilateral efforts under our obligations to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to create a nuclear-free world.
2019	Lab	GP	Labour's commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence will guarantee that our armed forces are versatile and capable of fulfilling the full range of roles and obligations.
2019	Lab	TL (eco)	Labour will use Britain's influence within the World Bank, IMF and WTO to transform the rules of the global economy so they work for the many.
2019	Lab	TL (eco)	We recognise the need to address historic injustices and will reset our relationships with countries in the Global South based on principles of redistribution and equality, not outdated notions of charity or imperialist rule.
2019	Lab	TL (dev)	Unlike the Conservatives, Labour is fully committed to a standalone Department for International Development (DfID), with an aid budget of at least 0.7% of gross national income. We will introduce the reduction of inequality as a goal for all aid spending alongside existing poverty reduction and gender equality goals.
2019	Lab	Other	Under Labour, we will ensure policy coherence across our international-facing departments.
2019	Lab	TL (dev)	Under Labour, DfID will continue to respond to the world's biggest crises and will ensure humanitarian aid is provided according to need, not whether the UK has commercial or other interests in the country. DfID will assume a strong position in cross-government decision making, including a permanent seat on the Export Control Joint Unit responsible for licensing arms exports.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Lab	LI	Our international programme will be based on human rights and gender equality.
2019	Lab	TL	Uphold basic rights to education, health and clean water by establishing a new Unit for Public Services within DfID, which will include increasing direct budgetary support to governments so they can build sustainable services for their citizens.
2019	Lab	TL (eco)	Promote fairer international tax rules and help countries in the Global South build progressive tax systems to finance essential public services.
2019	Lab	TL (eco)	Support trade unions internationally in their efforts to promote collective bargaining for better pay and conditions, and include binding social chapters in trade agreements to safeguard workers' rights.
2019	Lab	TL (eco)	Support ongoing UN efforts to introduce a binding international treaty on business and human rights, and make companies legally accountable for failing to prevent human rights abuses or environmental damage in their operations and supply chains, including criminal liability in the most serious cases.
2019	Lab	TL	Implement a gender transformative approach across all our international work, including tripling funding for grassroots women's organisations and establishing an independent ombudsman to tackle abuse in the development sector.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Labour believes in climate justice. Wealthy countries like the UK bear the greatest responsibility for the climate emergency.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	We have a duty to right this wrong.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Provide a top-up of new and additional spending on international climate finance to bring the total to £4 billion a year, and also support international calls for compensation to those nations already suffering loss and damage.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Stop all aid spending on fossil fuel production overseas, redirecting it towards clean, renewable energy for all.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	End all UK Export Finance support to fossil fuel projects, and reject any trade deals that conflict with our climate principles.
2019	Lab	TL	Undertake a root-and-branch reform of CDC Group plc (DfID's principal vehicle for encouraging private sector investment in developing countries), transforming it into a green development bank mandated to fight poverty, inequality and climate change.
2019	Lab	TL	Labour respects the crucial role played by small-scale farmers the world over in guaranteeing people the right to food.
2019	Lab	TL	Establish an aid-funded Food Sovereignty Fund to enable small-scale farmers in the Global South to gain access to land, seeds and finance, and uphold indigenous peoples' right to land.
2019	Lab	TL (enviro)	Support sustainable local food and agriculture markets in the fight against climate change.
2019	Lab	LI	Labour believes human rights should drive our trade policy.
2019	Lab	TL (arms)	Implement UK arms export controls to the highest standard, putting an end to exports where they might be used in violation of human rights or international humanitarian law.
2019	Lab	LI	Ensure government procurement contracts are not granted to companies that are complicit in serious human rights abuses, and require all UK trade agreements to be consistent with international humanitarian law.
2019	Lab	TL (eco)	Introduce legislation to ensure transparency and parliamentary scrutiny of trade and investment agreements.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	Lab	TL (eco)	Reject any trade agreements that undermine labour standards or environmental protections, and rule out UK Export Finance support to companies engaged in bribery or corruption.
2019	Lab	TL	Labour recognises the right to essential medicines as an integral part of the right to health.
2019	Lab	TL	Promote fairer international patent regimes that do not prevent countries from accessing essential medicines and support efforts to increase the transparency of medicines pricing so governments can negotiate fair prices.
2019	Lab	TL	In the long term, ensure that all medicines developed with the support of UK taxpayer money are accessible to people in the Global South.
2019	LibD	RPEU	Every vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote to stop Brexit and stay in the European Union.
2019	LibD	RPEU	For over three years Liberal Democrats have led the fight to stop Brexit. We campaigned to stay in the EU in 2016 and we unequivocally believe that the UK is stronger as part of the EU.
2019	LibD	RPEU	The election of a Liberal Democrat majority government on a clear stop Brexit platform will provide a democratic mandate to stop this mess, revoke Article 50 and stay in the EU. In other circumstances, we will continue to fight for a people's vote with the option to stay in the EU, and in that vote we would passionately campaign to keep the UK in the EU.
2019	LibD	RPEU	The importance of the UK's membership of the EU has never been clearer.
2019	LibD	RPEU	. By separating itself from the EU, Britain diminishes its capacity to respond to these threats. By working together with our European neighbours, we increase the UK's ability to meet those challenges: for example, in international negotiations, in regulating the tech giants or in creating markets for climate-friendly products.
2019	LibD	RPEU	There is no doubt that full membership of the EU is good for the British economy
2019	LibD	RPEU	There is no prospect of replacing lost EU markets with free trade agreements with other countries thousands of miles away.



Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	LibD	RPEU	There is no contradiction between our European and our British, national and regional identities: they enrich one another.
2019	LibD	RPEU	By stopping Brexit, Liberal Democrats will protect and maintain freedom of movement, safeguarding the rights of UK citizens living elsewhere in the EU and EU citizens in the UK.
2019	LibD	RPEU	Liberal Democrats will also support the right of the people of Gibraltar to remain in the European Union.
2019	LibD	RPEU	A Liberal Democrat government will stop Brexit – and build a brighter future for the UK by keeping us at the heart of the European Union.
2019	LibD	LI	The UK should be playing a leading role as part of a coalition of liberal democracies to respond to these challenges,
2019	LibD	Other	Only the Liberal Democrats have a plan to renew international liberalism in Britain and ensure that the UK plays an active role in building a better world.
2019	LibD	LI	a plan that will champion the values of human rights, democracy, and equality;
2019	LibD	SQP	a plan that means working through multilateral organisations such as the EU, UN, NATO, and the WTO, rather than undermining or leaving them entirely.
2019	LibD	Other	By clearly committing to these multilateral organisations, we can tackle our shared challenges,
2019	LibD	LI	live up to our values internationally
2019	LibD	Other	and shape international events in the interests of the UK.
2019	LibD	Other	Defending international cooperation against the rising tides of nationalism and isolationism,
2019	LibD	SQP	supporting multilateral organisations like the UN and NATO which are increasingly under threat.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	LibD	TL (dev)	Spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on aid: reducing poverty, defending human rights, protecting the environment and preventing violent conflict worldwide.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Cooperating with the UK's European and global partners in tackling the climate and environmental emergencies.
2019	LibD	TL (arms)	Controlling arms exports to countries with poor human rights records and, as part of this, suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia.
2019	LibD	LI	We will build on the UK's proud record of international leadership through the EU, UN, NATO and the Commonwealth by promoting values of freedom and opportunity for all. It has never been more important for the UK to work with allies as a champion of this message.
2019	LibD	SQP	Champion the liberal, rules-based international order, which provides a strong basis for multilateral action to address the world's biggest problems.
2019	LibD	GP	Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military cooperation – to strengthen UK efforts to prevent violent conflict.
2019	LibD	LI	Increase overseas financial support for the ongoing refugee crisis, focussing on countries that have accepted millions of refugees.
2019	LibD	LI	Work with European partners to introduce a European Magnitsky Act that would enable sanctions against corrupt individuals and perpetrators of human rights abuses.
2019	LibD	TL (arms)	Improve control of arms exports, including by introducing a policy of 'presumption of denial' for arms exports to countries listed as Human Rights Priority Countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report.
2019	LibD	LI	Liberal Democrats believe that despite efforts to prevent violent conflict, sometimes military intervention is necessary. The UK should only intervene militarily when there is a clear legal or

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in parliament – working through international institutions whenever possible.
2019	LibD	GP	We will encourage dialogue and mediation to reduce conflict between and within countries,
2019	LibD	SQP	working through the UN and other agencies.
2019	LibD	LI	Focus on the diplomatic priorities of the UN's Responsibility to Protect doctrine and establish new tests to ensure that any UK action has regional support, a reasonable prospect of defined success, and a sound legal and humanitarian case
2019	LibD	GP	Work with international partners to tackle violent extremism, paying special attention to UK citizens who have fought overseas for terrorist organisations who may become significant sources of terrorist activity if they return to Britain.
2019	LibD	GP	On Syria, cooperate internationally to stabilise the region and provide humanitarian assistance.
2019	LibD	GP	Work with the EU to revive the Iran nuclear deal.
2019	LibD	GP	Officially recognise the independent state of Palestine, condemn violence on all sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and support Israel's right to security. We remain committed to a negotiated peace settlement, which includes a two-state solution.
2019	LibD	TL (arms)	Suspend UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in response to their consistent targeting of civilians, in breach of international humanitarian law, in Yemen.
2019	LibD	GP	Promote democracy and stability in Ukraine and neighbouring countries against an increasingly aggressive Russia, by working closely with the EU and international partners to exert maximum economic and political pressure,
2019	LibD	FAUS	and standing by our NATO treaty obligations.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	LibD	Other	Honour our legal and moral duty to the people of Hong Kong by reopening the British National Overseas Passport offer, extending the scheme to provide the right to abode to all holders.
2019	LibD	GP	Liberal Democrats are the only party who understand the new challenges faced by the Armed Forces and who are committed to properly supporting them.
2019	LibD	FAUS	Commit to the principle of collective self-defence as laid out in the North Atlantic Treaty and spending two per cent of GDP on defence in line with NATO recommendations: as the economy grows after we have stopped Brexit, this will mean an extra £3 billion over the parliament.
2019	LibD	GP	Strengthen our armed services and address critical skills shortages by recruiting STEM graduates to be armed forces engineers, providing ‘golden handshakes’ of up to £10,000.
2019	LibD	TL (arms)	Promote an international treaty on the principles and limits of the use of technology in modern warfare.
2019	LibD	GP	Recognise the expansion of warfare into the cybersphere by investing in our security and intelligence services and acting to counter cyberattacks.
2019	LibD	GP	Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent,
2019	LibD	TL (arms)	while pursuing multilateral nuclear disarmament:
2019	LibD	GP	continuing with the Dreadnought programme, the submarine- based replacement for Vanguard, but procuring three boats and moving to a medium-readiness responsive posture and maintaining the deterrent through measures such as unpredictable and irregular patrolling patterns.
2019	LibD	LI	Our plan for the future is built on championing liberal and international values,
2019	LibD	TL (dev)	ending poverty and promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals both in the UK and abroad.
2019	LibD	TL (dev)	Remain firmly committed to spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on aid, prioritising development that both helps the poorest and ties in with our strategic international objectives on

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
			gender equality, climate change and the environment, human rights, conflict prevention and tackling inequality.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Increase the proportion of the aid budget committed to tackling climate change and environmental degradation: helping countries mitigate the impact of climate change and other environmental crises and support climate refugees.
2019	LibD	TL	Pursue a foreign agenda with gender equality at its heart, focusing on: the transformation of the position of women through economic inclusion, education and training; ensuring the lives of women and girls are not ignored in favour of trade or regional alliances; working to extend reproductive rights and end female genital mutilation; and ending sexual violence in conflict zones.
2019	LibD	LI	Protect, defend, and promote human rights for all, including LGBT+ individuals who are persecuted across the world as well as those persecuted for their religion or belief.
2019	LibD	TL	Develop a global education strategy to address the urgent crisis of 263 million children missing out on schooling.
2019	LibD	TL (eco)	Work through international bodies for better regulation and scrutiny of international trade and investment treaties to ensure they do not worsen inequalities or undermine human rights or developing countries' ability to regulate the environmental and social impacts of businesses.
2019	LibD	TL (eco)	Champion global anti-corruption initiatives and ensure the UK and British Overseas Territories have publicly-accessible registers of beneficial ownership of companies registered in their jurisdictions.
2019	LibD	LI	Liberal Democrats are the only party capable of renewing international liberalism and combatting discrimination:

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	LibD	LI	We are the only party with a credible plan to enhance the UK's soft power and to use it to promote human rights and democracy around the world.
2019	LibD	Other	Require UK-registered NGOs and organisations including the Armed Forces and defence contractors to report all instances of documented abuse overseas to government – reviewing, reducing, or refusing funding to organisations found in breach of these rules.  Establish an easy and appropriate reporting mechanism for abuse that makes clear that reporters and whistleblowers will not be discriminated against for reporting abuse.
2019	LibD	LI	Support free media and a free and open internet, championing the free flow of information.
2019	LibD	LI	Support the current UN initiative to protect journalists – combatting the impunity granted to those who attack reporters on the frontline – by funding UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication.
2019	LibD	LI	Work to abolish the death penalty around the world and remove the power of ministers to allow security and justice assistance in cases that could result in its use.
2019	LibD	LI	Work to end the use of torture around the world and conduct a full inquiry into the UK Government's involvement in torture and rendition.
2019	LibD	Other	Develop proposals with the BBC for investment to grow the World Service to reach more people across the world with independent and trusted news and continue to support BBC Monitoring and the British Council.
2019	LibD	LI	Develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world and advancing LGBT+ rights.
2019	LibD	LI	Appoint an Ambassador-level Champion for Freedom of Belief.

Year	Party	Comment text	Comment scope
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Liberal Democrats are the only party with a detailed plan to lead global efforts to combat the climate emergency.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Support the Paris Agreement by playing a leadership role in international efforts to combat climate change, demonstrating commitment by rapidly reducing emissions from the UK economy, increasing development spending on climate objectives and aiming to persuade all countries to commit to net zero climate goals by the 2020 UN climate conference in Glasgow.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Use our role in the EU to tackle the climate emergency, by setting a binding, EU-wide net zero target of 2050, and continuing to take part in the EU's Internal Energy Market, to provide access to clean energy sources while keeping costs low.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Strengthen climate and environmental goals in EU trade and investment agreements and refuse to enter any trade agreements with countries that have policies counter to the Paris Agreement, including the Mercosur-EU free trade agreement because of the Brazilian government's actions in the Amazon.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Initiate negotiations within the UN for a legally binding international treaty on plastics reduction.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Argue for ambitious new legally binding international targets to protect global biodiversity, and an effective global oceans treaty to create a network of ocean sanctuaries. We will also provide greater resources for international environmental cooperation, particularly on actions to tackle illegal and unsustainable trade in timber, wildlife, ivory, and fish.
2019	LibD	TL (enviro)	Argue for an end to all fossil fuel subsidies world-wide and provide aid to developing countries to help them transition to clean sources of energy.

### *Appendix 3. Presentation of data*

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**NRC Salience – per election**

1992	Con	Lab	LibD
FAUS	6,4%	2,1%	2,3%
GLTS	10,2%	0,0%	3,6%
GP	20,9%	15,2%	4,5%
ISOL	2,3%	0,0%	0,0%
LC	0,6%	4,6%	0,0%
LI	7,3%	8,3%	2,0%
Other	8,2%	7,3%	0%
RPEU	19,9%	16,4%	33,9%
SQP	5,4%	3,5%	3,8%
TL	18,8%	42,5%	49,8%

1997	Con	Lab	LibD
FAUS	0,7%	1,4%	4,1%
GLTS	7,1%	4,0%	2,4%
GP	17,1%	5,8%	5,5%
ISOL	2,9%	0,0%	5,0%
LC	1,8%	7,5%	0,0%
LI	2,3%	5,6%	3,3%
Other	11,9%	10,2%	1,3%
RPEU	43,2%	26,6%	29,9%
SQP	2,5%	7,7%	10,3%
TL	10,5%	31,1%	38,3%

2001	Con	Lab	LibD
FAUS	10,4%	1,3%	0,0%
GLTS	11,5%	8,6%	0,3%
GP	12,9%	8,0%	11,1%
ISOL	4,4%	0,0%	0,0%
LC	5,3%	0,6%	1,5%
LI	3,4%	3,3%	13,7%
Other	6,9%	3,7%	5,3%
RPEU	33,5%	15,2%	13,4%
SQP	0,0%	1,0%	5,9%
TL	11,7%	58,2%	48,7%

2005	Con	Lab	LibD
FAUS	9,7%	0,8%	1,5%
GLTS	12,6%	2,3%	2,7%
GP	16,8%	17,5%	8,4%
ISOL	7,1%	0,0%	0,0%
LC	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
LI	6,6%	4,6%	5,8%
Other	9,3%	4,0%	13,1%
RPEU	24,2%	17,2%	10,1%
SQP	0,0%	5,1%	2,7%

2010	Con	Lab	Lib
FAUS	1,9%	0,0%	0,0%
GLTS	6,2%	0,0%	1,2%
GP	20,1%	26,6%	10,5%
ISOL	1,9%	0,0%	0,0%
LC	0,6%	1,4%	0,0%
LI	8,3%	12,1%	4,2%
Other	16,0%	7,0%	9,0%
RPEU	22,8%	11,0%	16,5%
SQP	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
TL	22,2%	41,8%	58,4%

2015	Con	Lab	LibD
FAUS	3,1%	1,2%	1,5%
GLTS	14,3%	0,0%	7,0%
GP	25,9%	27,0%	17,5%
ISOL	2,7%	2,8%	0,0%
LC	0,6%	0,5%	0,0%
LI	9,6%	8,6%	10,0%
Other	5,7%	18,9%	9,4%
RPEU	16,9%	13,0%	17,1%
SQP	0,0%	0,0%	1,9%
TL	21,2%	28,1%	35,6%

2017	Con	Lab	Lib
FAUS	0,9%	0,7%	1,0%
GLTS	5,0%	19,2%	0,9%
GP	18,6%	16,9%	22,1%
ISOL	5,5%	0,0%	0,0%
LC	1,5%	0,0%	0,0%
LI	6,8%	8,7%	11,4%
Other	14,0%	10,3%	9,1%
RPEU	12,3%	15,1%	22,0%
SQP	1,4%	3,4%	5,8%
TL	34,0%	25,7%	27,6%

2019	Con	Lab	LibD
FAUS	2,2%	0,4%	2,9%
GLTS	24,5%	0,0%	0,0%
GP	12,9%	13,7%	14,2%
ISOL	8,4%	0,3%	0,0%
LC	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
LI	11,5%	10,9%	22,0%
Other	12,9%	12,8%	9,9%
RPEU	2,7%	12,0%	16,3%
SQP	0,3%	2,3%	2,1%
TL	24,6%	47,6%	32,6%

**NRC Salience - longitudinal and average**

Con	1992	1997	2001	2005	2010	2015	2017	2019	Average
FAUS	6,4%	0,7%	10,4%	9,7%	1,9%	3,1%	0,9%	2,2%	4,4%
GLTS	10,2%	7,1%	11,5%	12,6%	6,2%	14,3%	5,0%	24,5%	11,4%
GP	20,9%	17,1%	12,9%	16,8%	20,1%	25,9%	18,6%	12,9%	18,1%
ISOL	2,3%	2,9%	4,4%	7,1%	1,9%	2,7%	5,5%	8,4%	4,4%
LC	0,6%	1,8%	5,3%	0,0%	0,6%	0,6%	1,5%	0,0%	1,3%
LI	7,3%	2,3%	3,4%	6,6%	8,3%	9,6%	6,8%	11,5%	7,0%
Other	8,2%	11,9%	6,9%	9,3%	16,0%	5,7%	14,0%	12,9%	10,6%
RPEU	19,9%	43,2%	33,5%	24,2%	22,8%	16,9%	12,3%	2,7%	21,9%
SQP	5,4%	2,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	1,4%	0,3%	1,2%
TL	18,8%	10,5%	11,7%	13,8%	22,2%	21,2%	34,0%	24,6%	19,6%

Lab	1992	1997	2001	2005	2010	2015	2017	2019	Average
FAUS	2,1%	1,4%	1,3%	0,8%	0,0%	1,2%	0,7%	0,4%	1,0%
GLTS	0,0%	4,0%	8,6%	2,3%	0,0%	0,0%	19,2%	0,0%	4,3%
GP	15,2%	5,8%	8,0%	17,5%	26,6%	27,0%	16,9%	13,7%	16,4%
ISOL	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	2,8%	0,0%	0,3%	0,4%
LC	4,6%	7,5%	0,6%	0,0%	1,4%	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%	1,8%
LI	8,3%	5,6%	3,3%	4,6%	12,1%	8,6%	8,7%	10,9%	7,8%
Other	7,3%	10,2%	3,7%	4,0%	7,0%	18,9%	10,3%	12,8%	9,3%
RPEU	16,4%	26,6%	15,2%	17,2%	11,0%	13,0%	15,1%	12,0%	15,8%
SQP	3,5%	7,7%	1,0%	5,1%	0,0%	0,0%	3,4%	2,3%	2,9%
TL	42,5%	31,1%	58,2%	48,6%	41,8%	28,1%	25,7%	47,6%	40,5%

LibD	1992	1997	2001	2005	2010	2015	2017	2019	Average
FAUS	2,3%	4,1%	0,0%	1,5%	0,0%	1,5%	1,0%	2,9%	1,7%
GLTS	3,6%	2,4%	0,3%	2,7%	1,2%	7,0%	0,9%	0,0%	2,3%
GP	4,5%	5,5%	11,1%	8,4%	10,5%	17,5%	22,1%	14,2%	11,7%
ISOL	0,0%	5,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,6%
LC	0,0%	0,0%	1,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%
LI	2,0%	3,3%	13,7%	5,8%	4,2%	10,0%	11,4%	22,0%	9,0%
Other	0%	1,3%	5,3%	13,1%	9,0%	9,4%	9,1%	9,9%	7,1%
RPEU	33,9%	29,9%	13,4%	10,1%	16,5%	17,1%	22,0%	16,3%	19,9%
SQP	3,8%	10,3%	5,9%	2,7%	0,0%	1,9%	5,8%	2,1%	4,1%
TL	49,8%	38,3%	48,7%	55,8%	58,4%	35,6%	27,6%	32,6%	43,3%

**NRC Saliency – order per election**

Con	1992		1997		2001		2005		2010		2015		2017		2019
GP	20,9%	RPEU	43,2%	RPEU	33,5%	RPEU	24,2%	RPEU	22,8%	GP	25,9%	TL	34,0%	TL	24,6%
RPEU	19,9%	GP	17,1%	GP	12,9%	GP	16,8%	TL	22,2%	TL	21,2%	GP	18,6%	GLTS	24,5%
TL	18,8%	Other	11,9%	TL	11,7%	TL	13,8%	GP	20,1%	RPEU	16,9%	Other	14,0%	Other	12,9%
GLTS	10,2%	TL	10,5%	GLTS	11,5%	GLTS	12,6%	Other	16,0%	GLTS	14,3%	RPEU	12,3%	GP	12,9%
Other	8,2%	GLTS	7,1%	FAUS	10,4%	FAUS	9,7%	LI	8,3%	LI	9,6%	LI	6,8%	LI	11,5%
LI	7,3%	ISOL	2,9%	Other	6,9%	Other	9,3%	GLTS	6,2%	Other	5,7%	ISOL	5,5%	ISOL	8,4%
FAUS	6,4%	SQP	2,5%	LC	5,3%	ISOL	7,1%	FAUS	1,9%	FAUS	3,1%	GLTS	5,0%	RPEU	2,7%
SQP	5,4%	LI	2,3%	ISOL	4,4%	LI	6,6%	ISOL	1,9%	ISOL	2,7%	LC	1,5%	FAUS	2,2%
ISOL	2,3%	LC	1,8%	LI	3,4%	LC	0,0%	LC	0,6%	LC	0,6%	SQP	1,4%	SQP	0,3%
LC	0,6%	FAUS	0,7%	SQP	0,0%	SQP	0,0%	SQP	0,0%	SQP	0,0%	FAUS	0,9%	LC	0,0%
Lab	1992		1997		2001		2005		2010		2015		2017		2019
TL	42,5%	TL	31,1%	TL	58,2%	TL	48,6%	TL	41,8%	TL	28,1%	TL	25,7%	TL	47,6%
RPEU	16,4%	RPEU	26,6%	RPEU	15,2%	GP	17,5%	GP	26,6%	GP	27,0%	GLTS	19,2%	GP	13,7%
GP	15,2%	Other	10,2%	GLTS	8,6%	RPEU	17,2%	LI	12,1%	Other	18,9%	GP	16,9%	Other	12,8%
LI	8,3%	SQP	7,7%	GP	8,0%	SQP	5,1%	RPEU	11,0%	RPEU	13,0%	RPEU	15,1%	RPEU	12,0%
Other	7,3%	LC	7,5%	Other	3,7%	LI	4,6%	Other	7,0%	LI	8,6%	Other	10,3%	LI	10,9%
LC	4,6%	GP	5,8%	LI	3,3%	Other	4,0%	LC	1,4%	ISOL	2,8%	LI	8,7%	SQP	2,3%
SQP	3,5%	LI	5,6%	FAUS	1,3%	GLTS	2,3%	FAUS	0,0%	FAUS	1,2%	SQP	3,4%	FAUS	0,4%
FAUS	2,1%	GLTS	4,0%	SQP	1,0%	FAUS	0,8%	GLTS	0,0%	LC	0,5%	FAUS	0,7%	ISOL	0,3%
GLTS	0,0%	FAUS	1,4%	LC	0,6%	ISOL	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	GLTS	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	GLTS	0,0%
ISOL	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	LC	0,0%	SQP	0,0%	SQP	0,0%	LC	0,0%	LC	0,0%

LibD	1992		1997		2001		2005		2010		2015		2017		2019
TL	49,8%	TL	38,3%	TL	48,7%	TL	55,8%	TL	58,4%	TL	35,6%	TL	27,6%	TL	32,6%
RPEU	33,9%	RPEU	29,9%	LI	13,7%	Other	13,1%	RPEU	16,5%	GP	17,5%	GP	22,1%	LI	22,0%
GP	4,5%	SQP	10,3%	RPEU	13,4%	RPEU	10,1%	GP	10,5%	RPEU	17,1%	RPEU	22,0%	RPEU	16,3%
SQP	3,8%	GP	5,5%	GP	11,1%	GP	8,4%	Other	9,0%	LI	10,0%	LI	11,4%	GP	14,2%
GLTS	3,6%	ISOL	5,0%	SQP	5,9%	LI	5,8%	LI	4,2%	Other	9,4%	Other	9,1%	Other	9,9%
FAUS	2,3%	FAUS	4,1%	Other	5,3%	GLTS	2,7%	GLTS	1,2%	GLTS	7,0%	SQP	5,8%	FAUS	2,9%
LI	2,0%	LI	3,3%	LC	1,5%	SQP	2,7%	FAUS	0,0%	SQP	1,9%	FAUS	1,0%	SQP	2,1%
ISOL	0,0%	GLTS	2,4%	GLTS	0,3%	FAUS	1,5%	ISOL	0,0%	FAUS	1,5%	GLTS	0,9%	GLTS	0,0%
LC	0,0%	Other	1,3%	FAUS	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	LC	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%
Other	0%	LC	0,0%	ISOL	0,0%	LC	0,0%	SQP	0,0%	LC	0,0%	LC	0,0%	LC	0,0%

**NRC Salience Consensus – party pair and election total**

1992	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	4,3	4,1	0,2
	10,2	6,6	3,6
	5,7	16,4	10,7
	2,3	2,3	0,0
	4,0	0,6	4,6
	1,0	5,3	6,3
	0,9	8,2	7,3
	3,5	14,0	17,5
	1,9	1,6	0,3
	23,7	31,0	7,3
Total	57,6	90,1	57,8
Total	205,5		
1997	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	0,7	3,4	2,7
	3,1	4,7	1,6
	11,3	11,6	0,3
	2,9	2,0	5,0
	5,7	1,8	7,5
	3,3	1,0	2,3
	1,8	10,6	8,8
	16,5	13,3	3,3
	5,2	7,8	2,6
	20,6	27,7	7,1
Total	71,1	83,8	41,2
2001	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	9,1	10,4	1,3
	2,9	11,2	8,3
	4,8	1,7	3,1
	4,4	4,4	0,0
	4,7	3,8	0,9
	0,0	10,4	10,4
	3,2	1,6	1,6
	18,3	20,2	1,9
	1,0	5,9	5,0
	46,5	37,0	9,5
Total	94,9	106,5	42,0
Total	243,4		

2005	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	8,9	8,1	0,7
	10,3	10,0	0,4
	0,7	8,4	9,1
	7,1	7,1	0,0
	0,0	0,0	0,0
	1,9	0,8	1,2
	5,3	3,8	9,1
	7,0	14,0	7,0
	5,1	2,7	2,4
	34,7	41,9	7,2
Total	81,2	96,8	37,2
Total	215,1		
2010	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	1,9	1,9	0,0
	6,2	5,0	1,2
	6,5	9,6	16,1
	1,9	1,9	0,0
	0,8	0,6	1,4
	3,8	4,1	7,9
	9,0	7,0	2,0
	11,8	6,3	5,5
	0,0	0,0	0,0
	19,6	36,2	16,6
Total	61,5	72,6	50,7
Total	184,8		
2015	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	1,9	1,6	0,3
	14,3	7,3	7,0
	1,1	8,4	9,5
	0,1	2,7	2,8
	0,1	0,6	0,5
	1,0	0,4	1,4
	13,2	3,7	9,5
	3,9	0,2	4,1
	0,0	1,9	1,9
	6,9	14,4	7,5
Total	42,6	41,2	44,5
Total	128,3		

2017	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	0,2	0,1	0,3
	14,2	4,0	18,2
	1,6	3,5	5,1
	5,5	5,5	0,0
	1,5	1,5	0,0
	1,9	4,6	2,7
	3,8	4,9	1,2
	2,8	9,7	7,0
	2,0	4,3	2,4
	8,2	6,4	1,9
Total	41,7	44,7	38,8
Total	125,2		

2019	Con Lab	Con LibD	Lab LibD
	1,8	0,7	2,5
	24,5	24,5	0,0
	0,9	1,4	0,5
	8,1	8,4	0,3
	0,0	0,0	0,0
	0,5	10,5	11,0
	0,1	3,0	2,9
	9,3	13,6	4,3
	2,0	1,8	0,2
	23,0	8,0	15,0
Total	70,2	71,9	36,9
Total	179,0		



***NRC Salience - average***

	1992	1997	2001	2005	2010	2015	2017	2019
All parties	205,5	196,0	243,4	215,1	184,8	128,3	125,2	179,0
Con Lab	57,6	71,1	94,9	81,2	61,5	42,6	41,7	70,2
Con LibD	90,1	83,8	106,5	96,8	72,6	41,2	44,7	71,9
Lab LibD	57,8	41,2	42,0	37,2	50,7	44,5	38,8	36,9