



The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP

Candidate for Director-General of the
World Trade Organization

*Ensuring Global Trade
Works for Everyone*



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA



THE PRIME MINISTER

8 July 2020

Your Excellency,

The UK has the honour of nominating Dr Liam Fox for the position of WTO Director General. The UK has long championed the WTO and rules based free and fair trade as a route to prosperity and security for all nations. As the world seeks to recover from the shared challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of free and fair trade has never been more crucial.

Dr Fox is a passionate advocate of multilateralism, who brings detailed knowledge of the global trading system from his years as a UK Cabinet Minister and Secretary of State for International Trade. He has first-hand experience of the political and technical challenges of negotiating trade agreements, and the reforms that are needed to ensure the global trading system truly delivers for all WTO members.

Dr Fox will ensure all WTO members are heard as we chart a course to modernise the WTO, and that the benefits from trade are realised by all WTO members.

Yours sincerely
Boris Johnson

His Excellency Dr David Walker



***"From business as usual,
to business unusual"***





Our world is facing unprecedented challenges.

Dr Liam Fox combines decades of proven experience at the heart of global politics, with an unwavering belief in trade as the foundation for our collective stability and prosperity.

‘Business as usual’ will not suffice in the coming years. Countries and international commerce will be challenged in entirely new ways. Only those willing to adopt a ‘business unusual’ mindset will survive and thrive.

This will require visionary leadership, calm communication and proven delivery. Dr Liam Fox is the

right person for the job, at the right time, to lead the WTO through these choppy international waters.

WTO Members have recognised that the organization must adapt appropriately to today’s new realities especially in the wake of the COVID pandemic. In a world of rapid technological change Dr Fox sees the necessary WTO reforms as opportunities to make the WTO more credible, more progressive and more transparent for all its members.



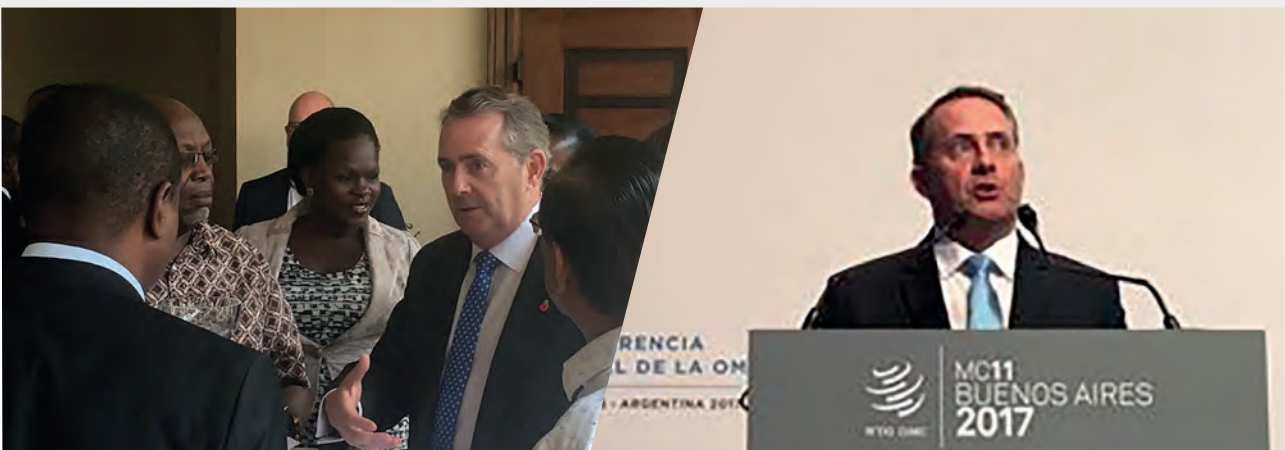
Dr Fox will support members realise their ambitions to:

- Defend the rules based system with a functioning dispute resolution mechanism
- Ensure that more women are empowered to access the opportunities that global trade brings
- Ensure the WTO plays a full role in addressing the global challenges we all face; building a more sustainable world economy and recognising that it is the smallest and most vulnerable countries who are often at greatest risk.

- Encourage more investment in, and support for, developing countries so that they can trade their way out of poverty.

The WTO is facing extraordinary risks that it has not faced since its creation – the Director-General must have the political weight to protect it.

Dr Liam Fox has a track-record of leading change through turbulent times, at home and abroad, and has the knowledge, the skills, the experience and the determination to build consensus and inspire innovation.



I believe:



1. We are not in ‘business as usual’

Global trade was contracting even before the COVID pandemic, so there will be major challenges post-pandemic – a different approach is required. We must embrace ‘business unusual’.

2. The multilateral system must be rules based and our commitment to it renewed

The alternative is an anarchic free-for-all, which is damaging to everyone. Trade needs clear rules, now more than ever.

3. This is about our collective wellbeing

Trade spreads prosperity, driving social cohesion, which underpins political stability and our collective security. Trade provides the bridge between our prosperity and security.

4. This is about empowerment and sustainable economic development

With trade decisions driving the future of our attitudes, our approach to inclusion, society, environment, our health, and the way that we create sustainable and inclusive growth across the globe. This is about greater opportunity, for everyone.

5. An experienced elected politician is required for the DG role to deliver these four points

Geneva is full of technical expertise, but at this time, it is political leadership and momentum that is required more than anything else. Elected politicians bring a different perspective, experience and sensitivity to the views of others.

“I commit to you today that if you give me the honour of becoming the next DG then I will ensure that at least half of the WTO’s most senior leadership team are women.”

Dr Liam Fox MP, Candidate Statement to WTO General Council,

Geneva, 17th July 2020





Biography

Dr Liam Fox is a former UK Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade.

Dr Fox was born in Scotland and studied medicine at the University of Glasgow before practising as a doctor in the UK's National Health Service (NHS). He also worked as a civilian army medical officer and a divisional surgeon with St John ambulance, a voluntary medical charity.

After working as a speech writer to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, he entered the House of Commons in 1992 and has served in a wide range of posts in both government and opposition.

In the government of Prime Minister John Major, he served as Lord Commissioner of the Treasury and then as a Minister in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office where he answered on Trade and Aid Policy in the House of Commons.

It was during this time that he worked extensively on what became known as the 'Fox agreement' in Sri Lanka, designed to help foster the conditions in which a negotiated solution to the country's civil war could be achieved.

He was appointed Defence Secretary under Prime Minister David Cameron in 2010, overseeing a major reorganisation of the Ministry of Defence and British involvement in the campaigns in Afghanistan and Libya.





As Secretary of State for International Trade under Prime Minister Theresa May, from 2016 to 2019, he successfully built a new department of government to oversee the creation of the UK's first independent trade policy for over 40 years.

Strongly anti-protectionist, he was also a passionate advocate of the ITC's 'SheTrades' initiative, believing that greater access to trade for women is both economically empowering and socially

progressive. He believes that there must be much better coordination between trade and development policy if the full potential of both is to be achieved.

Dr Fox is currently finishing writing a book on pandemics.



“Trade is a way in which we spread prosperity more widely. That prosperity underpins social cohesion, that social cohesion in turn underpins political stability and that political stability is the building block of our collective security.”

Dr Liam Fox MP, Future of Trade and Export Forum, 26th June 2019

“Liam Fox is a seasoned politician with a great deal of international experience. As a senior Minister, Liam has worked at G20 Ministerial level, and is known to many of the most senior figures who determine the trade policy of their own nation.”

The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH,
Former UK Prime Minister

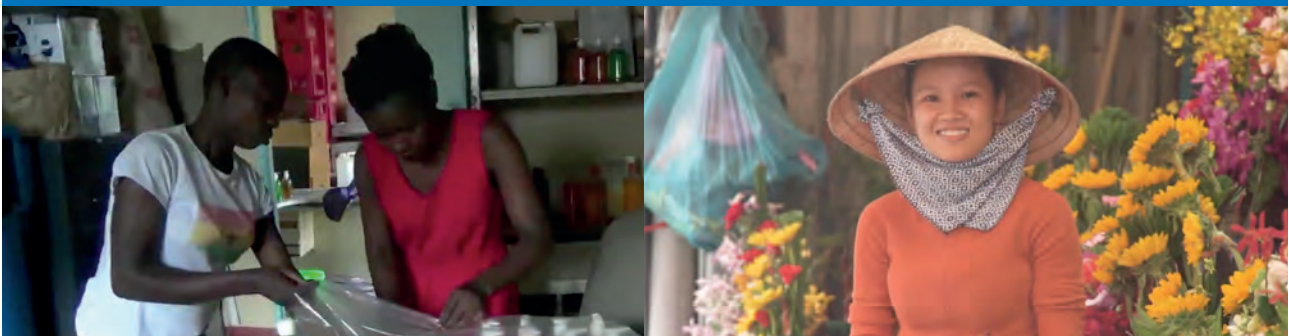


“Liam Fox will defend and renew the WTO. He has demonstrated throughout his career lifelong advocacy of the rules based system and as the UK’s International Trade Secretary he has represented one the world’s biggest economies at international summits such as the G7, G20 and Commonwealth Ministers meetings. Liam can and will deliver tough messages on reform, sustainability and development.”

The Rt Hon David Cameron,
Former UK Prime Minister

“Liam Fox understands the key role trade plays in improving the life chances of some of the poorest in our world. He also is and will be a champion for women in international trade. Liam is a passionate believer in the role of trade in women’s economic empowerment and I am delighted that he has committed to gender balance on his senior leadership team at the WTO if elected.”

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP,
Former UK Prime Minister



“Liam is an outstanding candidate with the attributes and experience the WTO needs at this cross-roads moment. He is a heart and soul champion of free trade, with the technical expertise and experience as a Trade Secretary to navigate the complex and sensitive issues at stake. And he has the diplomatic and political skills to reconcile the inevitable tensions in trade negotiations and deliver win-win results.”



The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP,
UK Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary



“The new WTO Director General needs to be a fierce champion of free and fair trade, an advocate of multilateralism, and be able to get things done and increase the pace of reform. Dr Liam Fox brings all those things to the table.

He has experience making tough political decisions as a former UK Trade Secretary, is committed to the fundamental principle of free and fair trade and has excellent relationships with WTO members around the world. He is the ideal candidate to lead the WTO into a new era and help push forward much-needed modernisation of the organisation.”

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP,
UK Secretary of State for International Trade
and President of the Board of Trade

“UK aid has a proud track record of creating jobs and boosting economic growth in developing countries - lifting millions of people out of poverty and strengthening our trading partnerships.

I have been delighted to work with Liam Fox, whose passion and commitment to free and fair trade will deliver meaningful results for the world's most vulnerable.”

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP,
UK Secretary of State for International Development



“Liam Fox would be a brilliant Director General and he understands why the WTO matters at ground level. He has unparalleled experience in boosting exports and building better livelihoods through trade. He understands the needs of small business in both developed and developing countries.”

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP,
Former UK Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary



“I was delighted to work with Liam towards our shared vision, taking practical steps in partnership with the International Trade Centre and the Enhanced Integrated Framework to build capacity in some of the smallest and most vulnerable WTO members.”

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP,
UK Home Secretary and Former International
Development Secretary



“Liam Fox will deliver an even better WTO Secretariat. As a former UK Defence Secretary and International Trade Secretary, Liam has a track record in establishing and reforming large organisations”.

The Rt Hon The Lord Hague of Richmond,
Former UK Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary





HM Government



The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP

An elected politician with proven global experience is best placed to deal with the historic challenges we face at the WTO.

Served in a wide range of roles including as International Trade Secretary and Defence Secretary as well as a Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, a qualified medical doctor and author on the challenges of globalisation.