

November 16, 2021



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Institute for
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Alliance for
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Introducing another week of Future Trends — *tracking current global news stories that provide insight into the future.*

CONFLICT

Top diplomat proposes integration of EU military. There are proposals for a [5,000 strong force](#). European countries have highly-trained soldiers and cyber, naval and air power, but resources are duplicated across 27 militaries..

Polish PM calls for concrete steps from NATO amid Belarus border crisis. The PM said that NATO must take "[concrete steps](#)" to resolve the migrant crisis on the Belarus border, adding that Poland, Lithuania and Latvia may ask for consultations under the alliance's treaty.

Sudan's army chief appoints new ruling council, led by him. Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan [named a new transitional council](#), headed by himself, to lead the country following the military takeover late last month, shrugging off domestic and international pressure to reverse the coup.

Pakistan takes Islamist leader off terrorism list under deal to end protests. [Pakistan removed Saad Rizvi from its terrorism watch-list](#), paving the way for his release from detention under a deal to end weeks of deadly protests by his followers over an alleged blasphemy.

Tunisian protesters try to march on suspended parliament. Thousands of Tunisians protesting against President Kais Saied's seizure of political power four months ago [tried to march on the suspended parliament](#), as hundreds of police blocked off the area.

Future of US-China arms rivalry. The future of the arms race, security or potential warfare between the US and China [is becoming more complex and less predictable due to technological advances](#), autonomous weapons, AI and increased spending by China.

DEVELOPMENT

France building more nuclear plants to meet climate goals. [France will start building nuclear reactors to meet its climate goals and to secure its energy needs](#). Nuclear energy produces less levels of carbon emissions.

The world's largest floating solar power farm is now open in Thailand. The 145,000 solar panels installed at the Sirindhorn Dam [can generate 45MW of power](#). The water surface will ensure that the panels do not heat up too much and remain up to 15 percent more efficient than if they were installed on land.

Only a tiny fraction of our DNA is uniquely human. As little as [1.5% is unique to humans](#). The humans-only DNA, scattered throughout the genome, tends to contain genes involved in brain development and function, hinting that brain evolution was important in making humans human.

New \$100B green energy alliance between leading philanthropists. [The new renewable energy alliance](#) between Bezos Earth Fund, IKEA Foundation, and The Rockefeller Foundation and financial institutions could be instrumental in speeding up the development of technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[Where most primary forest is lost:](#)

SOCIAL

Italy: Protests only allowed on city outskirts. Certificate and vaccination opponents have demonstrated for weeks in Trieste: Now the number of infections is exploding and the government in Rome [has restricted the freedom of demonstration for the whole country](#).

Biowaste converter project wins innovation award, helps agriculture in Ivory Coast. Kubeko [converts crop production waste into compost](#). It has helped to increase production and reduce waste. Cocoa, palm oil and mango farms have benefited from this innovation.

[Frederik Willem de Klerk, who helped end apartheid in South Africa, dies aged 85](#). He was one of the guiding figures in ending apartheid in South Africa. He was head of state between September 1989 and May 1994, and shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela, who succeeded him as president.

Delhi shuts schools due to noxious smog. New Delhi authorities [announced a one-week closure of schools](#) and said they would consider a “pollution lockdown” to protect its 20 million citizens from toxic smog.

[Congo does not know what to do with rebels who surrender](#). Foreign donors have pumped millions into dysfunctional disarmament schemes. The programmes are meant to reintegrate rebels back into the villages, but the lack of funds leaves former rebels in camps with no purpose.

ECONOMICS

The British government supports Rolls-Royce nuclear technology. The company [plans to develop Small Modular Reactors \(SMR\) with the objective to reduce carbon emissions](#). The nuclear SMRs are easy to transport, assemble and cheaper than other options.

US inflation hit a 30-year high. [Consumer prices jumped 6.2% in October](#), with a mix of supply challenges and strong demand driving up the cost of just about everything. The increase is fuelling concerns that prices could spin out of control and interrupt the US recovery.

Several rich countries have decoupled GDP growth from emissions. Many poorer countries such as China and India have increased their carbon emissions in the last ten years, this has been roughly balanced by reductions in emissions from America and much of Europe. [In total 76 countries have reduced their CO2 output per person by more than 5% since 2010.](#)

Sweden charges Lundin Energy executives with complicity in Sudan war crimes. [Prosecutors brought charges against the Chairman and former CEO of Lundin Energy](#) for complicity in war crimes for asking the Sudanese government in 1999 to secure a potential oilfield, knowing this would mean seizing the area by force.

[EU court upholds €2.4 billion antitrust fine against Google.](#) EU competition chief sanctioned the search engine in 2017 for favouring its own price-comparison shopping service. Google has racked up a total of 8.25 billion euros in EU antitrust fines in the last decade.

POLITICS

Xi Jinping consolidates power as leader of China with historic resolution. Central Committee members declared Mr Xi's ideology the "[essence of Chinese culture](#)". The party leadership's resolution on its history is only the third since its founding 100 years ago.

Chile's President Sebastian Piñera has been impeached and will go on trial. After appearing in the Pandora Papers, the Chamber of Deputies [voted to impeach the Chilean president](#). This process will impact the upcoming election campaign.

[Sara Duterte: Daughter of Philippines leader runs for vice-president.](#) The move ends months of speculation about whether she was planning to run in the polls. Rodrigo Duterte, president of the Philippines, will stand for a senate seat in next year's election avoiding confrontation with his daughter.

Son of former Libyan ruler Gaddafi runs for president. The son of late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi made a rare appearance [to register as a presidential candidate for the December vote](#). Once sentenced to death, then commuted he has been out of sight for the past 10 years and is wanted by the ICC.

Hungary will not leave EU, wants to reform it, PM Orban says. Orban who was re-elected as his party's chairman said "[We will not give up the right to defend our borders, to stop migrants ... we insist that marriage in Hungary is between a man and a woman.](#)"

PEACEBUILDING

The [Sustainable Coffee Challenge](#) aims to move coffee toward becoming a "sustainably and ethically sourced commodity." Supported by [Conservation International](#), the challenge is working with small-scale farmers, global retailers and everyone in between to improve livelihoods, conserve forest, and avoid new carbon emissions, while expanding production to

meet rising demand. It has established concrete interim targets for 2025 as well as longer-term goals for 2050 and has grown to more than 135 international partners.

In northern Kenya, [Interpeace](#) and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) have facilitated the [establishment of local peacebuilding structures](#) which local communities have used to collaborate, manage conflicts and reconcile their differences. In Banisa, along the Kenya-Ethiopia border, for example, conflict was resolved through a series of inter-community dialogues that concluded in a peace agreement. Community structures consist of ceasefire monitoring committees, working groups, a peace actors' forum and village dialogue space committees.

Even in the current difficult context in Myanmar, the [Karuna Center's Watering the Banyan Tree project](#) is using public arts, advocacy, and dialogue to promote interfaith respect and inclusion of minorities. The project team has developed innovative virtual approaches to deliver training and to host dialogue events. The project is also engaging with people both inside the country and outside to teach them creative ways to conduct advocacy using art.

Bren Smith's non-profit [GreenWave](#) teaches regenerative ocean farming techniques to fishermen. He grows shellfish and seaweed, using only nutrients in the water, carbon, and sunlight. He told [PBS](#) that this zero-input food production makes it "the most sustainable form of food production on the planet." Green Wave aims to build a network of 10,000 regenerative ocean farmers in the next 10 years.