

June 28, 2022



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

Here's what you need to know: NATO “prepared for all eventualities” as Putin issues fresh threats, thousands flee violence in Mozambique, US Supreme Court imposes limits on ability to cut carbon emissions, Ford backs massive lithium mine in West Australia, enforcer of Hong Kong security law sworn in as city's new leader, Mexican mayor weds alligator to secure abundance.

SPECIAL EDITION: UKRAINE

NATO “prepared for all eventualities” as Putin issues fresh threats. After [Sweden and Finland were invited to join NATO](#), Putin said "if NATO troops and infrastructure are deployed, we will be compelled to respond in kind and create the same threats for the territories from which threats towards us are created."

Dozens of Russian arms dealers have faced no Western sanctions. Nearly three dozen leaders of Russian weapons firms and at least 14 defence companies [have not been sanctioned](#) by the US, the EU or the UK.

China not giving material support for Russia's war in Ukraine. The US has not seen China evade sanctions or provide military equipment to Russia, a senior US official said. They added that measures taken earlier in the week [targeted certain Chinese companies](#), not the government.

CONFLICT

Thousands flee violence in Mozambique. [Thousands have been displaced](#) as Islamist insurgents step up attacks on villages in northern Mozambique.

NATO returns to combat stance to counter new and hostile world. NATO has agreed to the [biggest upgrade of its military presence in Europe](#) since the end of the Cold War, redrawing the continent's security in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Qatar to support Lebanese soldiers' salaries with \$60 million pledge. Qatar has pledged [\\$60 million to the Lebanese army](#); funding that is earmarked to support the salaries of Lebanese soldiers.

Colombia extradites accused drug cartel leader's sister to US. [Nini Johana Usaga](#) is accused of laundering drug money for the Clan del Golfo and handling international relations with cartels in countries including Mexico. The group ships 200 tons of cocaine each year.

Sri Lanka faces further political unrest and violence. [Sri Lanka's economy](#) is close to collapse and many cannot afford basic necessities largely due to economic mismanagement, the effects of the pandemic, and the impact of the 2019 terrorist attacks on the local tourism industry.

DEVELOPMENT

US Supreme Court imposes limits on ability to cut carbon emissions. The Court's 6-3 ruling restricted the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to [regulate greenhouse gas emissions](#) under the landmark Clean Air Act anti-pollution law.

\$500 million from World Bank for Egypt's food security. Egypt will receive [development funds to secure the country's grain storage](#), after issues caused by the fallout from the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

US to send \$1b to Ukraine. The US has promised Ukraine [\\$1 billion for security aid](#) amid continued fighting. \$225 million will be sent for humanitarian assistance.

Ghana requests IMF assistance. Ghana, one of West Africa's largest economies, will hold formal talks with the IMF on a [support package](#) after hundreds took to the streets protesting mounting hardship.

South Africa faces worst power cuts in over two years. South Africa's electricity public utility Eskom has implemented [Stage 6 outages](#) and the government has made fixing it a priority, but efforts have been slow to achieve results.

ECONOMICS

Ford backs massive lithium mine in West Australia. A [\\$545 million lithium mine](#) in Western Australia has been approved for development, after a deal was signed with Ford to supply battery metal.

Nigeria sells oil fields despite court decision. Nigeria has raised over \$482 million after issuing [oil licenses for 57 bidding fields](#). This is despite a court order preventing Abuja from issuing oilfield licenses due to a lawsuit.

Puerto Rico suspends operations of bank amid global probe. Authorities have suspended operations of a Puerto Rico-based bank, which officials said was [under suspicion of facilitating money laundering and offshore tax evasion](#).

Venezuela's economy growing most in 15 years as oil flows. Venezuela's economy is forecast to expand at its fastest pace in 15 years, marking a [rebound for a country](#) that recently emerged from the deepest recession in Latin America.

Australian honey bees put in lockdown due to deadly parasite. Australia was previously the only continent free of the [varroa mites](#), which are the biggest threat to bees worldwide.

POLITICS

Enforcer of Hong Kong security law sworn in as city's new leader. Xi Jinping swore in John Lee as the city's next chief executive, making him the [first security policy expert to run the international financial hub](#) since its handover from Britain.

Russia arrests scientist for alleged collaboration with Chinese secret services. Russia has reportedly detained a scientist in Siberia on [suspicion of state treason](#) for allegedly collaborating with China's security services.

Turkey lifts veto on NATO membership. Both [Sweden and Finland are now able to join NATO](#), after Turkey made their membership conditional on changing their stance on Kurdish rebel groups that Turkey see as terrorists.

Ecuador's government and Indigenous leaders reach deal to end protests. The government of Ecuador and Indigenous protest leaders have reached an [agreement to end mass demonstrations](#) that have paralysed parts of the country since mid-June. The deal includes a fuel price decrease and other concessions.

Mali schedules presidential elections for February 2024. Mali's junta has announced that [presidential elections](#), aimed at paving the way for the return to constitutional order, will be held in February 2024.

SOCIAL

Mexican mayor weds alligator to secure abundance. A Mexican mayor married [his alligator bride](#) in a traditional ceremony as guests implored the indigenous leader to seal the nuptials with a kiss.

Samsung says it is manufacturing 3nm chips in global first. Samsung has started [mass producing 3-nm chips](#) at its semiconductor plant in Hwaseong, becoming the first to reach the milestone.

Bionic robo-fish to remove micro-plastics from seas. Scientists have designed a tiny [robot-fish](#) that is programmed to remove microplastics from seas and oceans by adsorbing them.

Gambia bans timber exports to curb rosewood smuggling. The government has banned all timber exports and permanently revoked all export licences with immediate effect, in an [effort to combat illegal logging](#).

Gold miner in Canada finds mummified 35,000-year-old baby woolly mammoth. The [woolly mammoth](#) is believed to have been a little over one month old when she died. Stretching 140cm, she is slightly longer than the only other whole baby woolly mammoth discovered in Siberia in 2007.

PEACEBUILDING

CMI and Åland Islands Peace Institute hosted representatives of Southern Yemeni groups for a two-day [workshop to discuss issues related to governance and autonomy](#). The 22 participants in the workshop represented nine political and social movements of Southern Yemen.

Conductive Space for Peace has launched its [first podcast](#), on the *Chain of Influence: Framework for Systems Change*. CSP Director Mie Roesdahl and her colleagues discuss avenues to pursue change within and between international organizations in order to “enable a more conducive space for local leadership.”

The **GHR Foundation** recently approved [two-year grants for four racial equity initiatives in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area](#). *All Square*’s funding will support the launch of [The Legal Revolution](#), providing ABA accredited access to legal education and career opportunities for incarcerated individuals. The funding for the [Center for Economic Inclusion](#) will provide capital investments to Black and Indigenous businesses. The grant for the [Northside Funders Group](#) will contribute to a collective pooled fund to make grants to BIPOC organizations in North Minneapolis. The funds for the [Nuns & Nones](#) will support its Land Justice Project, a new initiative that backs religious communities in creating new land legacies rooted in racial and ecological healing.

Across the U.S., states and local communities are undertaking efforts to address climate change. New York and Colorado are on track to reduce electricity-related emissions 80 percent by 2030, compared with 2005 levels, according to new state [scorecards](#) from RMI, a clean energy think tank. Citizens in Fairfax County, Virginia teamed up for a year and a half to produce [a 214-page climate action plan](#) that identified strategies in five areas: buildings and energy efficiency, energy supply, transportation, waste, and natural resources. Community organizations in the farming town of Morris, Minnesota are supporting a [Morris Model](#), which calls for reducing energy consumption 30 percent by 2030, producing 80 percent of the county’s electricity locally by 2030, and eliminating landfill waste by 2025.