

June 15, 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

NATO to add space attacks to mutual defence pact during summit in Brussels. NATO leaders are set to expand the use of their all-for-one, one-for-all, collective defence clause to [include attacks in space](#), the military organisation's top civilian official says. An attack on communication satellites of any country will be considered an attack on all.

Thousands protest against Spain's possible pardons for jailed Catalan leaders. Tens of thousands [protested in Madrid](#) against government plans to pardon 12 Catalan politicians who were convicted over the region's failed independence bid in 2017, a move the demonstrators see as a threat to national unity.

Myanmar, up to 100,000 people flee shelling. A UN human rights investigator has warned a massive loss of life is possible in the wake of shelling in Myanmar's Kayah State forcing [100,000 people to flee their homes](#) into nearby forests.

France to scale down counter-terrorism operations in West Africa. The existing 5,100-strong task force will be drawn down. French forces have been operating in Mali, Chad, Mauritania, Niger, and Burkina Faso [to fight militants](#) linked to al Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS) group.

Egypt asks for UN help in long-running Ethiopian dam dispute. Egyptian authorities alleged that Ethiopia has thwarted efforts to reach a [binding legal agreement](#) on issues related to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam that would guarantee the interests of all nations. Talks mediated by the African Union hit another deadlock in April.

DEVELOPMENT

Cambodia deploys new batch of rat recruits to sniff out landmines. Twenty African giant pouched rats were [recently imported](#) from Tanzania and have undergone intense training to sniff out landmines.

Ethiopia's Tigray famine crisis. A UN analysis found that 350,000 people were living in a [severe food crisis](#) in the war-torn Tigray region, as well as neighbouring Amhara and Afar.

Historic drought threatens Brazil's economy. The worst drought in a century has hit two key regions in Brazil and is [wreaking havoc](#) on hydroelectric dams and crops. It is threatening the country's nascent pandemic recovery.

Child labour rises to 160 million – first increase in two decades. The number of children in child labour has risen to [160 million worldwide](#) – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years – with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19.

SOCIAL

China boosts Bordeaux-au-Gobi wine region. China will invest \$31 billion in its wine industry to [increase output four fold](#), attract foreign and domestic investors and establish global influence in the industry.

77% reduction in Dengue Fever cases. In an Indonesian trial mosquitoes infected with *Wolbachia* bacteria [reduced the insect's ability to spread dengue](#). The bacteria does not harm the mosquito.

Massive underwater avalanche disrupts internet between Nigeria and South Africa. The avalanche, [the longest sediment flow ever recorded](#), travelled more than 1,100km from its source at the mouth of the Congo river along a deep ocean canyon.

Polynesians were the first to visit Antarctica in the 600s AD. Through the analysis of Maori legends, wood carvings and other means it appears that [Maoris may have been the first to visit the Antarctic](#) some 1,300 years ago. Indigenous legends make note of a “frozen sea” and a “dark place not seen by the Sun.”

ECONOMICS

World Bank sees strongest rebound in 80 years. The major economies will grow while emerging market and developing nations [will continue to struggle](#) with the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

US core inflation soars to 29-year high. The inflation data adds pressure on the Federal Reserve to [tighten the money supply](#) faster than planned. Consumer prices rose 5% in May from a year ago and core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, rose by 3.8% — the highest since 1992.

Producer prices in China rose by 9% in May. It is the biggest jump in 13 years and will fuel worries that more [expensive Chinese exports](#) will drive up global inflation. China's consumer price index was 1.3% over the same period.

El Salvador makes bitcoin legal tender while global banking regulators call for tougher rules. In El Salvador bitcoin must be accepted by firms [when offered as payment for goods](#) and

services. However, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision is proposing regulations that [may force banks](#) to put aside enough capital to cover 100% of potential losses.

China and the US agree to push forward trade and investment ties. Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao and his counterpart Gina Raimondo [agreed to promote](#) the healthy development of pragmatic cooperation in trade and investment between the two countries.

POLITICS

Swiss reject law to help country meet Paris carbon emissions goal. A new CO2 law was narrowly rejected, with [51.6% of voters opposing it](#) in a nationwide referendum. The result was a defeat for the Swiss government which supported the new law that included measures such as increasing a surcharge on car fuel and imposing a levy on flight tickets.

UK government acted unlawfully over contract linked to PM's ex-aide Dominic Cummings, court rules. The High Court said the government had shown “apparent bias” in awarding more than £560,000 to Public First [to test public opinion](#) on the government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic.

If elected, Angela Merkel’s replacement would boost military spending. Mr Laschet, who is [backed by Merkel's conservatives](#) to run for Chancellor at the Sept. 26 election, said he would ensure that Germany meets the NATO spending target of 2% of GDP.

Nigeria demands social media firms get local licence. Social media firms wanting to operate in Nigeria [must register a local entity](#) and be licensed. This follows a ban of Twitter last week.

EU parliament set to sue European Commission over rule-of-law inaction. Lawmakers accuse the executive Commission of delays in [applying a new regulation](#) that makes EU governments’ access to funds conditional on their respect for the rule of law and democratic norms. Hungary could lose billions.

PEACEBUILDING

A group of US development and humanitarian assistance organizations recently published [the results of a survey of the field designed to Benchmark Race, Inclusion, and Diversity in Global Engagement \(BRIDGE\)](#). The survey found that only one quarter of the organizations have diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies and white individuals are overrepresented in leadership positions. Women are fairly represented in leadership posts but women of color/BIPOC women hold only four percent of chief executive positions.

The [Coalition for Action on 1325 \(CoACT\)](#) and the Embassy of Sweden in Kampala recently hosted a [“Democracy Talks” event](#) with representatives of civil society, youth leaders, police, and media to discuss youth participation in democratic processes in Uganda. The event, which was [streamed live](#) on NTV Uganda, highlighted CoACT’s training program to increase youth leadership capacity, knowledge of election processes, and peacebuilding skills. The program is funded by ICAN’s [Innovative Peace Fund](#).

The Mandela Washington Fellowship, an [exchange program for young African leaders](#), includes an innovative approach to applicants with disabilities. Nearly 4,400 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa have participated in the Fellowship. On average 5% of Fellows in each cohort self-identify as having a disability, including mobility, hearing, vision, and other medical disabilities. The Fellowship offers a Pre-Institute in American Deaf Culture to incoming Fellows who are deaf, a collaboration between the US Department of State, [IREX](#), and [Gallaudet University](#).

The [Carter Center](#) recently issued [Ensuring Voter Access while Protecting Election Integrity](#), an analysis of key arguments underlying recent legislative efforts to modify existing electoral laws in states across the U.S. The report concludes that the two main goals of election administration and reform—ensuring election integrity and facilitating voter access—are not mutually exclusive.