

DAILY TRACKER**NUCLEAR ISSUES**

1. Stalled talks between Iran and world powers to reinstate a 2015 nuclear deal will resume "soon", the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Thursday, while Tehran said it was evaluating the previous rounds of negotiations.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-nuclear-talks-resume-acceptable-period-time-eu-2021-09-30/> *01 October 2021*

2. The assignment of the status of a "green" energy source to nuclear power generation in the Russian Federation should be a signal for other countries considering the inclusion of nuclear energy in their "green" lists, Rosatom Director General Alexei Likhachev said on 27 September. The previous week, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin had approved the criteria for the selection of "green" projects and initiatives in the field of sustainable development for concessional financing. Among the "green" areas of energy, nuclear energy is separately designated. The document spells out specific parameters required to attract concessional financing through special bonds or loans for the implementation of a "green" or adaptation project. At the same time, "green" projects must comply with the goals of international documents in the field of climate and sustainable development. "The approval of the Russian "green" taxonomy is an important step within the framework of the national climate and environmental agenda, an incentive for the development of green industries and projects," Likhachev noted. He added that the taxonomy officially established the status of nuclear energy as a "green" source, along with solar, wind and geothermal energy.

Source: <https://www.neimagazine.com/news/newsrussia-confirms-nuclear-as-green-while-eu-remains-undecided-9120845> *01 October 2021*

3. Ever since the Clinton administration in 1993, new US presidents have conducted a Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) to assess whether the stockpile size, composition, and operational deployment of US nuclear weapons align with their military policy, foreign policy, and budgetary objectives. The results are used to guide nuclear policies and programs for the remainder of a president's term.



Source: <https://thebulletin.org/2021/09/ready-aim-fired-can-biden-rescue-the-nuclear-posture-review/> 01 October 2021

4. Do you have experience working with evolutionary and innovative reactor designs and are interested in furthering their safety? Then register by 31 January and submit your abstract to be considered for a presentation at the International Conference on Topical Issues in Nuclear Installation Safety: Strengthening Safety of Evolutionary and Innovative Reactor Designs, to be held in Vienna, Austria from 18 to 21 October 2022.

Source: <https://www.miragenews.com/international-conference-on-topical-issues-in-642937/> 01 October 2021

5. **THE US administration’s decision to get Australia to cancel its contract with France for the supply of conventional submarines and, instead, get nuclear-powered submarines of the type the Americans or British were using came as a rude shock to the French who were informed of the decision only hours before it was made public.** Initial expressions of deep umbrage by the French foreign minister, the recall of French ambassadors from Washington and Canberra and reports that the largely government-owned company that had made the initial agreement with the Australians was capable also of delivering nuclear-powered submarines contributed to what was termed a betrayal. The break between France — backed at least in some measure by Germany — and the Anglophones (the US, UK, New Zealand and Australia) seemed beyond repair.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1649467> 01 October 2021

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Nuclear politics and nuclear policy shifts get plenty of coverage – atomic-powered submarines for Australia, China’s missile silo fields, North Korea’s enrichment activities in Yongbon, Iran’s compliance with international monitoring, as well as weapons modernisation all receive considerable press, and rightly so. With developments coming at such a pace though, there is much value in examining the international legal architecture to see what lies ahead for key nuclear arms control treaties. We can of course turn to the “politics” by surveying state action and rhetoric, but we can also turn to the “law” and check for developments in the rules-based global order – to assess how the multilateral treaties are faring, whether in force or not, which



are intended to constrain nuclear proliferation, encourage disarmament, ban nuclear testing and control nuclear materials.

Source: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/arms-control-stocktake> **01 October 2021**

2. After first suffering a seeming “brain snap” to acquire a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs) some years back, at long last Australia has been promised a fleet of eight SSNs by the Biden administration under the newly minted and awkwardly named **AUKUS** (Australia, United Kingdom and United States) alliance against China. Fresh from an ignominious debacle in Afghanistan that led to that bedevilled country once again falling under the repression of the murderous Taliban, the Biden administration has capped off its recent Afghan escapade by driving a stake through the global nuclear non-proliferation regime through its ill-advised decision to supply SSNs and related technology to Australia.

Source:<https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/armaments/nuclear-weapons/4768-australia-s-nuclear-powered-submarines-will-risk-opening-a-pandora-s-box-of-proliferation>
01 October 2021

3. Qatar renewed its commitment to working with the international community for total elimination of nuclear weapons, and regional and international peace and security, stressing the importance of strict and full commitment to all pledges and implementation of legal obligations arising from international agreements in the field of nuclear disarmament and the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This came in a statement made by HE the Director of the International Organisations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yousef Sultan Laram at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, held on the sidelines of its 76th session.

Source:<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/701414/Qatar-renews-its-pledge-for-total-elimination-of-n> **01 October 2021**

1. The latest test comes days after North Korea launched a new hypersonic missile which is believed to have nuclear capabilities. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said the tests "create greater prospects for instability and insecurity". Pyongyang says its weapons are needed for self-defence, accusing the US and South Korea of "double standards".

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58757628> 01 October 2021

2. North Korea has fired a newly developed anti-aircraft missile, state media said, the second-known test in a week, even as it makes reconciliatory overtures towards South Korea. The test took place on Thursday, two days after the country launched a previously unseen hypersonic missile.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/1/n-korea-conducts-second-known-missile-test-in-a-week> 01 October 2021

3. It was North Korea's second known weapons test this week after launching a previously unseen hypersonic missile on Tuesday. The test was aimed at confirming the practical functionality of the missile's launcher, radar, comprehensive battle command vehicle and combat performance

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/north-korea-fires-new-anti-aircraft-missile-11633046125725.html> 01 October 2021

UN REFORMS

1. Secretary-General António Guterres said it was engaging with the government "in the expectation" the affected staff could "continue their important work". Ethiopia earlier declared the seven "persona non grata" and said they had 72 hours to leave the country. The UN has raised concerns in recent weeks about a "de-facto" blockade of aid to the war-torn region of Tigray. UN aid chief Martin Griffiths earlier this week said he assumed there was now famine in Tigray and urged the Ethiopian government to "get those trucks moving".

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-58753569> 01 October 2021



2. The UN's top humanitarian official in Myanmar said Thursday the Asian nation's people are living in "a severe crisis," with a level of poverty not seen for at least 20 years. Andrew Kirkwood said in a virtual briefing to UN correspondents that the number of people in the country needing aid has tripled to 3 million since the military takeover on Feb. 1 while a total of 20 million are living in poverty, or nearly half the population.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/myanmar-humanitarian-crisis-united-nations-7545456/> 01 October 2021

3. Every year, October 1 is celebrated as International Day of Older Persons across the world. This year, the theme of the day is "Digital Equality for All Ages". Ahead of the day, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres shared a message stressing on the importance of digital equality for everyone. He said, "Staying connected with loved ones. Attending a religious service. taking a stance. All of these actions and many more are increasingly carried out online, especially as individuals and communities grapple with restrictions imposed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. As we face the challenge of navigating our world's growing reliance on technology, perhaps no population could benefit more from support than older persons." Guterres added, "Older persons have often been left more isolated during the pandemic. They are also at greater risk of suffering from the rising threat of cybercrime. While taking all possible measures to hold to account those unscrupulous criminals preying on older persons, we must also work to strengthen the digital skills of the elderly as an important defence and means to improve their well being. "

Source: <https://www.timesnownews.com/mirror-now/in-focus/article/international-day-of-older-persons-un-secretary-general-stresses-on-staying-connected/818852> 01 October 2021

4. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is vying for time regarding the Cyprus problem, knowing there is no common ground between the two people on the divided island, the foreign minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) said Thursday. "We do not expect much from the U.N. It is obvious that the U.N. has not solved any political problem so far," Foreign Minister Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu said in Washington after a meeting between Guterres, TRNC President Ersin Tatar, and Nicos Anastasiades, leader of the Greek Cypriot administration.

Source: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/un-secretary-general-vies-for-time-in-solving-cyprus-issue> 01 October 2021



5. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) call on states to refrain from expelling Haitians without proper assessment of their individual protection needs, to uphold the fundamental human rights of Haitians on the move, and to offer protection mechanisms or other legal stay arrangements for more effective access to regular migration pathways. The four agencies also encourage countries in the Americas to engage in a comprehensive regional approach to ensure the protection of Haitian men, women and children moving throughout the region. The UN and its partners are providing basic assistance to Haitians at various points *en route* and in Haiti. However, more needs to be done to address their profound vulnerabilities.

Source: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/9/6155964b4/un-agencies-call-protection-measures-comprehensive-regional-approach-haitians.html> 01 October 2021