

Annex C. Chronology 2018

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This chronology lists the significant events in 2018 related to armaments, disarmament and international security. Keywords are indicated in the right-hand column.

January

1 Jan.	In a speech, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatens the United States with nuclear weapons, but proposes negotiations with South Korea.	North Korea; nuclear weapons; South Korea; USA
2 Jan.	US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un exchange nuclear threats on Twitter.	North Korea; nuclear weapons; USA
3 Jan.	North Korea reopens a border telephone hotline with South Korea.	North Korea; South Korea
15 Jan.	The El Junquito raid by the Venezuelan Army and National Guard results in the death of a rebel leader, Oscar Perez, and five members of his group.	Venezuela
19 Jan.	India joins the Australia Group (AG).	India; AG
23 Jan.	France launches the International Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons, a new initiative to increase information sharing about reported chemical weapon (CW) attacks.	France; CWs
25 Jan.	The Taliban attack a hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing 22 people.	Afghanistan; Taliban
27 Jan.	At least 95 people are killed in a bomb detonated in an ambulance in Kabul. The Taliban claims responsibility for the attack.	Afghanistan; Taliban
29 Jan.	Peace talks between the Colombian Government and the National Liberation Army (ELN), the country's second main guerrilla group, are suspended following a series of ELN attacks.	Colombia; ELN
30 Jan.	Russia hosts a peace conference on Syria in Sochi, which is attended mainly by pro-Assad delegates.	Russia; Syria; peace process

February

2 Feb.	The USA imposes an arms embargo on all sides in South Sudan's civil war.	Arms embargo; South Sudan; USA
2 Feb.	The USA releases its new Nuclear Posture Review.	USA; nuclear weapons

<i>4 Feb.</i>	At least nine people are treated for breathing difficulties after a bomb believed to be filled with chlorine was dropped on the rebel-held town of Saraqeb in Syria.	CWs; Syria
<i>7–8 Feb.</i>	The US military launches air strikes on Syrian Government-backed troops that were attacking Syrian opposition forces accompanied by US advisers. About 100 government troops are reportedly killed, but some reports suggest up to 200 Russian mercenaries may have been killed.	Russia; Syria; USA
<i>9 Feb.</i>	Egypt launches a new military campaign to combat the insurgency in Sinai.	Egypt
<i>10 Feb.</i>	An Israeli F-16 aircraft is shot down by Syria after returning from an attack on Iran-backed Syrian forces at the Tiyas Military Airbase in Syria.	Iran; Israel; Syria
<i>19–20 Feb.</i>	Syrian Government attacks in eastern Ghouta, Syria, reportedly kill about 200 people, including children and emergency workers, and damage 5 medical facilities in the city. The UN condemns the targeting of civilians and infrastructure.	Syria; UN
<i>26 Feb.</i>	Russia announces that it will establish a humanitarian corridor and implement a five-hour daily truce in Ghouta, Syria.	Russia; Syria
<i>28 Feb.</i>	The second meeting of the Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation is held in Afghanistan with the participation of dozens of regional and global representatives.	Afghanistan; Kabul Process
<i>March</i>		
<i>1 Mar.</i>	Sri Lanka accedes to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).	Sri Lanka; CCM
<i>1 Mar.</i>	Boko Haram kills at least 11 people, including 3 aid workers, in an attack on a military base near a camp for displaced people in the north-eastern state of Borno in Nigeria, near the border with Cameroon.	Boko Haram; Nigeria
<i>2 Mar.</i>	Jihadist attacks in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, target army headquarters and the French embassy, killing 8 security personnel and 8 attackers, and wounding 80 people, including civilians.	Burkina Faso
<i>4 Mar.</i>	Sergey Skripal, a former Russian military officer, and his daughter Yulia Skripal are poisoned in Salisbury, UK, with a nerve agent that the UK and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) later confirm to be novichok.	CWs; OPCW; Russia; UK
<i>6 Mar.</i>	The Sri Lankan Government imposes a 10-day state of emergency for the first time since the civil war (1983–2009), in response to days of violent unrest in the central Kandy district between Sinhalese and Muslim communities.	Sri Lanka
<i>14 Mar.</i>	The UK expels 23 Russian diplomats after Russia ignores the British Prime Minister's deadline for an explanation of the poisoning of Sergey Skripal and his daughter. The UK also calls an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, where it receives support from all members apart from Russia.	CWs; Russia; UK; UN

<i>15–16 Mar.</i>	Leaders of the five Central Asian countries meet in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, for their first summit in nearly a decade.	Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan
<i>16 Mar.</i>	Air-dropped incendiary munitions are reportedly used on the town of Kafr Batna in eastern Ghouta, Syria, killing at least 61 people and wounding more than 200.	Syria; incendiary weapons
<i>16 Mar.</i>	US President Trump signs the Taiwan Travel Act, which formally encourages visits between US and Taiwanese officials. China is strongly critical, saying it violates the ‘One China’ policy that has long been the foundation of US–China relations.	China; Taiwan; USA
<i>18 Mar.</i>	Turkish-backed Syrian rebels seize control of the Syrian city of Afrin.	Syria; Turkey
<i>25 Mar.</i>	Houthi forces in Yemen launch multiple ballistic missiles against Saudi Arabia, targeting the capital Riyadh, as well as other cities near the border with Yemen and in the south-west of the country. Saudi Arabia claims its missile defences intercepted the incoming missiles. Debris from the interception kills one Egyptian national and wounds two others.	Saudi Arabia; Yemen
<i>25–28 Mar.</i>	North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, China. The unofficial trip marks Kim Jong Un’s first known excursion out of North Korea since assuming power in 2011.	China; North Korea
<i>26 Mar.</i>	Led by the USA and the European Union (EU), Western nations expel more than 100 Russian diplomats in a coordinated response to the nerve agent attack in the UK earlier in the month. Russia announces it will respond to the expulsions in kind.	CWs; EU; Russia; UK; USA
<i>26–27 Mar.</i>	At a conference in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in support of the Kabul Process, 21 countries and intergovernmental organizations renew the call for the Taliban to accept the peace offer.	Afghanistan; Kabul Process; Taliban
<i>28 Mar.</i>	The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, announces a new initiative entitled Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) during a high-level debate on UN peacekeeping operations in the UN Security Council.	UN; peace operations
<i>30 Mar.</i>	The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) closes after almost 15 years.	UN; peace operations
<i>30 Mar.</i>	Palestinians in Gaza launch a wave of protests known as the Great March of Return. Israeli forces use live fire, rubber-coated bullets and tear gas to push back tens of thousands of Palestinian protesters gathering at the border fence dividing Gaza and Israel, killing at least 17 Palestinians and injuring more than 1400.	Israel; Palestine
<i>April</i>		
<i>1 Apr.</i>	Al-Shabab conducts a large-scale attack against an African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) base in the Lower Shabelle region killing 46 AMISOM troops.	Al-Shabab; Somalia; AMISOM

<i>1 Apr.</i>	Fighting between separatist militants and Indian security forces in Kashmir kills at least 12 militants and 3 Indian soldiers. Later the same day, at least 4 civilians are killed during demonstrations.	India; Kashmir
<i>4 Apr.</i>	The presidents of Iran, Russia and Turkey meet in Ankara to discuss efforts to end the Syrian civil war.	Iran; Russia; Syria; Turkey
<i>7 Apr.</i>	At least 42 people are killed in a suspected CW attack in Douma, Syria.	CWs; Syria
<i>10 Apr.</i>	Twenty-eight people are killed in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR), after UN peacekeepers and local security forces launched an operation to clear armed groups from a neighbourhood there.	CAR; UN peacekeeping
<i>11 Apr.</i>	The World Health Organization (WHO) says around 500 people have been treated for symptoms consistent with exposure to toxic chemicals after the suspected CW attack in Douma, Syria, on 7 April.	CWs; Syria; WHO
<i>13 Apr.</i>	Intelligence services in the Netherlands disrupt an alleged Russian cyber operation against the OPCW headquarters in the Hague.	Netherlands; Russia; OPCW
<i>13 Apr.</i>	The USA, France and the UK conduct air strikes against three targets in Syria: two suspected CW storage facilities west of Homs and one research centre in Damascus.	France; Syria; UK; USA
<i>17 Apr.</i>	More than 30 global technology companies, including Facebook and Microsoft, announce a joint pledge not to aid any government in undertaking offensive cyberattacks.	Cybersecurity
<i>20 Apr.</i>	In a speech Kim Jong Un announces that North Korea will halt further tests of nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles.	North Korea; nuclear weapons
<i>22 Apr.</i>	Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP) attacks a voter registration centre in Kabul, killing around 60 people.	Afghanistan; ISKP
<i>23 Apr.</i>	At least 26 people are killed in Nicaragua during a week of anti-government protests that were sparked by social security reforms introduced on 16 April.	Nicaragua
<i>23 Apr.– 4 May</i>	The Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference holds its second session in Geneva, Switzerland.	NPT PrepCom
<i>26 Apr.</i>	The EU expands its arms embargo on Myanmar to cover a range of dual-use and other goods.	EU; arms embargo; Myanmar
<i>27 Apr.</i>	At the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in meet in the demilitarized zone and agree to work towards removing all nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula.	North Korea; South Korea
<i>29 Apr.</i>	An Israeli air strike on the western Syrian city of Hama reportedly kills at least 25 Iranian soldiers.	Iran; Israel; Syria

<i>May</i>		
<i>1 May</i>	At least 15 people, including a priest, are killed in an attack by unidentified gunmen on a church in Bangui, CAR.	CAR
<i>8 May</i>	US President Trump declares that the USA is withdrawing from the Iran nuclear agreement (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA).	Iran; JCPOA; USA
<i>9 May</i>	After years of negotiations, Japan and China agree to set up a maritime and aerial communication mechanism for crisis management.	China; Japan
<i>13–14 May</i>	A series of Islamic State-inspired bomb attacks in Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, kills at least 25 people. The attacks were carried out by three families, including their children, who targeted churches and the police.	Indonesia; Islamic State
<i>14 May</i>	In the worst day of violence since the 2014 Gaza war, Israeli forces kill over 60 Palestinian protesters and wound at least 2400 at the Gaza–Israel border.	Israel; Palestine
<i>15 May</i>	North Korea ends communications with South Korea and announces that it might pull out of the planned summit with the USA after South Korea and the USA carry out joint military exercises.	North Korea; South Korea; USA
<i>22 May</i>	A UN Security Council open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict discusses efforts to expand and strengthen international protection for civilians in conflict zones.	UN; protection of civilians in armed conflict
<i>24 May</i>	International investigators say that Russia was directly responsible for shooting down Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014. The investigators identified the 53rd anti-aircraft missile brigade in Kursk as having fired the Buk missile system that shot down the airliner.	Malaysia; Russia; Ukraine
<i>24 May</i>	The UN Secretary General launches the UN's new disarmament agenda, entitled <i>Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament</i> .	Disarmament; UN
<i>24 May</i>	North Korea claims to have destroyed its key nuclear weapon testing site, by setting off explosions to collapse underground tunnels, hours before US President Trump calls off a planned summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on 12 June. The summit is later reinstated.	North Korea; nuclear disarmament; USA
<i>25 May</i>	The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect, giving Internet users more control over their online data and placing constraints on how businesses can obtain, use and handle online data.	EU; GDPR
<i>29 May</i>	After 18 months of border clashes, India and Pakistan agree to restore the 2003 ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control, which divides the region of Kashmir.	India; Pakistan; Kashmir
<i>29 May</i>	France hosts a summit on Libya in Paris, which brings together the main heads of Libya's rival political institutions.	France; Libya

<i>June</i>		
<i>5 June</i>	Ethiopia's governing coalition announces it will fully accept and implement the peace deal that ended its 1998–2000 border war with Eritrea. It says it will accept the outcome of a 2002 border commission ruling, which awarded disputed territories to Eritrea.	Ethiopia; Eritrea; peace agreement
<i>7 June</i>	Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announces an unconditional ceasefire with the Taliban until 20 June, but the arrangement excludes Islamic State and al-Qaeda.	Afghanistan; Taliban
<i>9 June</i>	Just days after a unilateral ceasefire was ordered by the Afghan Government, the Taliban announces a three-day ceasefire with government forces to coincide with the religious festival of Eid later in the month.	Afghanistan; Taliban
<i>12 June</i>	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece sign an agreement resolving their 27-year dispute over FYROM's official name, now to be the Republic of North Macedonia. The deal, which still needs to be ratified in the face of opposition in both countries, unblocks Greek opposition to FYROM joining the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).	EU; Greece; FYROM; North Macedonia; NATO
<i>12 June</i>	Spain agrees to accept a rescue ship of 629 African migrants after both Italy and Malta refused it entry.	Italy; Malta; migrant crisis; Spain
<i>12 June</i>	A summit meeting between US President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un takes place in Singapore. In a joint statement Kim Jong Un reaffirms his commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and Trump promises to suspend joint military exercises with South Korea.	North Korea; USA
<i>13 June</i>	A Saudi Arabian-led coalition launches an attack on the port city of Hodeidah, Yemen, despite UN attempts to broker a peace agreement between the Iran-backed Houthi forces that hold the city and the Saudi Arabian-backed coalition forces.	Saudi Arabia; UN; Yemen
<i>15 June</i>	A senior leader of the Pakistani Taliban, Mullah Fazlullah, is reportedly killed in a US air strike in Afghanistan.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
<i>18 June</i>	US President Trump announces the forthcoming formation of a Space Force, describing it as the sixth branch of the US military.	USA; Space Force
<i>18 June</i>	The Taliban refuses to extend a three-day ceasefire with the Afghan Government. The government says its security forces will continue the ceasefire for 10 more days.	Afghanistan; Taliban
<i>18–29 June</i>	The Third Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPOA) takes place at the UN headquarters in New York, USA.	UNPOA
<i>19 June</i>	The USA withdraws from the UN Human Rights Council citing anti-Israel bias.	UN; USA

<i>21–24 June</i>	At least 86 people are killed in attacks believed to be carried out by nomadic herders against farming communities in central Nigeria. These occur after days of violence apparently sparked by an attack on 21 June by ethnic Berom farmers on Fulani herders.	Nigeria
<i>23 June</i>	The UAE announces a pause in the assault on Hodeidah, Yemen, to allow for UN-brokered talks.	UAE; Yemen
<i>23 June</i>	An explosion at an election rally for President Emmerson Mnangagwa in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, kills 2 and injures at least 49 people.	Zimbabwe
<i>23 June</i>	Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed narrowly escapes an assassination attempt when attending a political rally. The attack caused 1 fatality and injured more than 100 people.	Ethiopia
<i>26–27 June</i>	At the request of several states, a Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is convened to discuss how to uphold the ban on CWs. The session empowers the OPCW to attribute responsibility for CW use.	CWC; OPCW; CWS
<i>27 June</i>	President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar, a former vice president, sign an initial framework agreement in Khartoum, Sudan, to enact a ceasefire in South Sudan and work towards a new transitional government.	South Sudan
<i>29 June</i>	US intelligence agencies report that North Korea has increased production of fuel for nuclear weapons at multiple secret sites in recent months and may try to hide these while seeking concessions in nuclear talks with the USA.	North Korea; nuclear proliferation; USA
<i>30 June</i>	A couple found unconscious in the UK are later found to have been exposed to novichok after handling a contaminated item. One of them dies on 8 July.	CWs; UK
<i>July</i>		
<i>1 July</i>	A suicide bombing in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad kills at least 19 people, most of them members of the country's Sikh minority. The Islamic State claims responsibility for the attack.	Afghanistan; Islamic State
<i>8 July</i>	At least six members of Tunisia's security forces are killed in an attack close to the border with Algeria, by unknown assailants.	Tunisia
<i>8 July</i>	In Nicaragua, 38 people are reported killed in clashes between protesters and troops. It is the deadliest day since protests against President Daniel Ortega's government began in April.	Nicaragua
<i>8–9 July</i>	At the end of a two-day Eritrea–Ethiopia peace summit, the leaders of the two countries sign a joint declaration formally ending their border conflict and restoring full diplomatic relations.	Eritrea; Ethiopia; peace agreement
<i>10 July</i>	An attack at an election rally in the north-western city of Peshawar, Pakistan, kills at least 20 people, including a prominent local politician. Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan claims responsibility for the attack.	Pakistan; Tehrik-i- Taliban Pakistan
<i>11 July</i>	The UN Security Council holds a full debate on the impact of climate change on peace and security.	UN; climate change

<i>11–12 July</i>	The NATO Summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, is dominated by debates over burden sharing and uncertainty about the USA's continued commitment to the alliance.	NATO Summit
<i>12 July</i>	The OPCW verifies as complete the destruction of the last two declared CW production facilities in Syria.	Syria; CWs; OPCW
<i>13 July</i>	The UN Security Council extends sanctions against South Sudan by passing Resolution 2428, which includes an embargo on the supply of arms and military equipment of all types.	UN; South Sudan; arms embargo
<i>13 July</i>	Two bombings take place at election rallies in Bannu and Mastung ahead of Pakistan's general election. The attack in Mastung kills 149 people and wounds 186 others; the Islamic State claims responsibility. The attack in Bannu kills 4 people and wounds at least 19 others; no group claims responsibility.	Islamic State; Pakistan
<i>16 July</i>	A Russia–USA summit meeting between US President Trump and Russian President Putin takes place in Helsinki, Finland.	Russia; USA
<i>18 July</i>	More than 2000 of the world's top artificial intelligence researchers from 36 countries sign a letter vowing to never create LAWS.	LAWS
<i>24 July</i>	A Syrian aircraft conducting attacks against Syrian rebels in the Golan Heights area strays into Israeli airspace and is shot down.	Israel; Syria
<i>25 July</i>	Several violent attacks take place during the Pakistani general election. In the worst attack, at least 31 people are killed in a suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State outside a polling station in the city of Quetta. Two people are also killed and several injured in minor explosions around the country.	Islamic State; Pakistan
<i>26 July</i>	President Rodrigo Duterte signs the Bangsamoro Organic Law, which is drawn from the 2014 peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MNLF). Among its key features is a proposed new autonomous region for part of Mindanao in the south of the Philippines.	Philippines
<i>August</i>		
<i>1 Aug.</i>	About 200 Islamic State fighters surrender to the Afghan Government in order to avoid being taken into custody by the Taliban, following two days of fighting between the two groups.	Afghanistan; Islamic State; Taliban
<i>2 Aug.</i>	A draft code of conduct in the South China Sea is agreed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China.	ASEAN; China; South China Sea
<i>2 Aug.</i>	Aircraft from the Saudi Arabian-led coalition attack the port city of Hodeidah, Yemen, hitting civilian targets and killing at least 30 people.	Saudi Arabia; Yemen
<i>9 Aug.</i>	Israel and Hamas exchange rocket and missile fire for the first time since 2014. Hamas rockets target Beersheba in southern Israel, while Israeli missiles target Gaza. The attacks come just hours before a ceasefire and injure 25 people.	Israel; Palestine

- 9 Aug. An air strike by the Saudi Arabian-led coalition in Yemen hits a bus in a crowded market area, killing dozens of Yemeni civilians, mostly children. Saudi Arabia; Yemen
- 10 Aug. A day after dropping fliers urging civilians to surrender, a wave of air strikes by the Syrian Government in the provinces of Idlib, Hama and Aleppo kills at least 29 people. Syria
- 20–24 Aug. The Fourth Conference of States Parties (CSP4) of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is held in Tokyo, Japan. ATT
- 24 Aug. The UN International Organization for Migration warns that migration from Venezuela is approaching a crisis point comparable to events involving refugees in the Mediterranean. UN; refugee crisis; Venezuela
- 25 Aug. A joint US–Afghan military operation reportedly kills Abu Saad Erhabi, the leader of the Islamic State in Afghanistan. He is the third Islamic State head in Afghanistan to be killed since July 2017. Afghanistan; Islamic State; USA
- 27 Aug. Iran signs an agreement with Syria reaffirming its commitment to remain in the country and deepen its military cooperation with the government of President Bashar al-Assad. Iran; Syria
- 27 Aug. Following a 12-month investigation, the UN’s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar announces that the commander of Myanmar’s army and other top generals should face charges of genocide against Rohingya Muslims and crimes against humanity for their targeting of other ethnic minorities. Myanmar continues to reject the allegations levied against it. Myanmar; UN
- 28 Aug. A UN Group of Experts report accuses Saudi Arabia and the UAE of committing or enabling war crimes in Yemen. The report also notes that crimes have been committed by the Houthis, the opposition group in the civil war in Yemen, but claims that most casualties have come from the Saudi Arabian-led air strikes. Saudi Arabia; UAE; UN; Yemen
- 31 Aug. The USA announces that it will end all funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)—the main UN programme for Palestinian refugees. The German Government pledges to significantly increase its funding for the agency. Germany; Palestine; UNRWA; USA
- 31 Aug. Namibia ratifies the CCM. Namibia; CCM
- September*
- 2 Sep. Libya’s UN-backed GNA announces a state of emergency in Tripoli and its outskirts, after several days of fighting between rival armed groups. At least 39 people have been killed in the violence and nearly 100 wounded. Libya
- 5 Sep. British police charge two Russian men, Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, with the attempted murder in March of Sergey Skripal and his daughter. The British Government says the two men belong to Russia’s intelligence services. CWs; Russia; UK
- 11 Sep. The Eritrean–Ethiopian border crossings reopen for the first time since 1998. Ethiopia; Eritrea

- 12 Sep. The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan is signed by President Kiir and rebel leader Machar in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. South Sudan; peace agreement
- 12 Sep. The EU Parliament adopts a resolution calling for a ban on LAWS that are fully autonomous. EU; LAWS
- 15–16 Sep. At least 23 people are killed in two days of violence targeting minorities in Ethiopia's ethnic Oromo heartland, near the capital Addis Ababa. Ethiopia
- 17 Sep. Russia and Turkey agree to establish and monitor a demilitarized buffer zone to protect civilians in the province of Idlib, Syria. Russia; Syria; Turkey
- 17–18 Sep. A Russian military aircraft is shot down off the coast of Syria by Syrian anti-aircraft fire. Russia blames Israel initially, but the next day says it was not Israel that attacked the aircraft. Israel; Russia; Syria
- 18 Sep. Eritrea and Djibouti begin talks to resolve their border dispute. The meeting at a summit in Saudi Arabia between Djiboutian President Ismail Omar Guelleh and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki is the first between the two leaders in more than a decade. Djibouti; Eritrea
- 18–20 Sep. South Korean President Moon Jae-in visits Pyongyang, North Korea, for his third summit meeting in 2018 with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The resulting Pyongyang Declaration states that North Korea will allow international observers to oversee the closure of a missile test site, and that it is willing to permanently dismantle the main Yeongbyeon nuclear complex provided the USA takes 'corresponding measures'. North Korea; nuclear disarmament; South Korea; USA
- 22 Sep. An attack on a military parade in the city of Ahvaz, Iran, kills 25 people and injures nearly 70 others. The Islamic State and a local insurgent group both claim responsibility for the attack. Iran accuses the local insurgent group, but also points to the group's alleged enablers in the Gulf and in the USA. Iran; Islamic State; USA
- 30 Sep. FYROM's referendum on changing its name to North Macedonia falls short of the 50 per cent turnout required, but with over 90 per cent of those who took part in favour of the change, the country's prime minister vows to push forward with the changes. FYROM; North Macedonia
- October*
- 1 Oct. As part of inter-Korean confidence building, troops from both North Korea and South Korea begin the removal of small numbers of landmines at two sites in the demilitarized zone. North Korea; South Korea; landmines
- 2 Oct. Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent journalist and critic of the Saudi Arabian Government, disappears inside the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, and it later emerges that he was killed there. Saudi Arabian officials initially deny involvement in his disappearance. Saudi Arabia; Turkey

4 Oct.	Officials in the Netherlands, the UK and the USA accuse Russian intelligence officers of launching cyberattacks on investigators pursuing cases of alleged Russian misconduct around the globe.	Cybersecurity; Netherlands; Russia; UK; USA
7 Oct.	The US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet in Pyongyang, North Korea, and agree to hold a second US–North Korea summit meeting.	North Korea; USA
8 Oct.	The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that global warming could become irreversible in 12 years' time.	Climate change; IPCC
12 Oct.	A migrant caravan of Central Americans, mainly Hondurans, leaves San Pedro Sula, Honduras, bound for the USA. It was assembled through a grass-roots social media campaign in early October.	Honduras; migrant caravan
15 Oct.	Gambia launches a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to examine abuses committed under the 22-year rule of its former president, Yahya Jammeh.	Gambia
15 Oct.	North Korea and South Korea reach an agreement to establish road and rail links, even though the plan may be in violation of UN Security Council sanctions.	North Korea; South Korea; sanctions
16 Oct.	North Korea and South Korea begin talks on disarming the border village of Panmunjom and allowing guards and tourists to move freely across the demarcation line.	North Korea; South Korea
17 Oct.	The Israeli military strikes 20 targets in Gaza in retaliation for a rocket fired into the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, escalating tensions on the Israel–Gaza border.	Israel; Palestine
17 Oct.	The International Criminal Court (ICC) issues a severe warning to Israel and Hamas over a possible investigation of alleged war crimes in Gaza.	ICC; Israel; Palestine
18 Oct.	The heads of Kandahar's police and intelligence bodies are killed in an attack claimed by the Taliban, two days before parliamentary elections in Afghanistan.	Afghanistan; Taliban
19 Oct.	Saudi Arabian officials admit to what they claim was the accidental killing of Jamal Khashoggi on 2 Oct. in Turkey.	Saudi Arabia; Turkey
20 Oct.	President Trump announces that the USA will withdraw from the 1987 Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty).	USA; INF Treaty
20, 21 and 27 Oct.	Parliamentary elections that were originally scheduled for 2016 finally take place in Afghanistan, despite Taliban attacks on polling stations across the country. Final results are not expected until the 20 December.	Afghanistan
21 Oct.	Ethiopia concludes a peace agreement with the Ogaden National Liberation Front.	Ethiopia

23–24 Oct.	Fighting between rival clan militias kills at least 40 people in the Sool region of Somalia, which is claimed by both an independent Somaliland and Puntland (an autonomous part of Somalia).	Somalia
26 Oct.	The Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, makes a historic visit to China and both countries sign a series of agreements.	China; Japan
27 Oct.	Peace talks on Syria involving the leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Turkey take place at a Quartet Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.	France; Germany; Russia; Turkey; Syrian peace process
27 Oct.	The Islamic State kills at least 40 US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces and temporarily regains areas it lost earlier in eastern Syria, near the Iraqi border.	Islamic State; Syria
30 Oct.	The USA announces that it is sending over 5200 troops to the border with Mexico as a migrant caravan of thousands of Central Americans heads towards the USA.	Mexico; migrant caravan; USA
31 Oct.	The NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) formally starts under the command of Canada.	NATO; Iraq; Canada
<i>November</i>		
2 Nov.	The administration of US President Trump announces the reimposition of sanctions on Iran, although waivers are granted for eight unnamed jurisdictions.	Iran; sanctions; USA
6 Nov.	A joint report by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) says that over 200 mass graves holding as many as 12 000 bodies have been found in areas of Iraq once controlled by the Islamic State.	Iraq; Islamic State; OHCHR; UNAMI
9 Nov.	The administration of US President Trump suspends aerial refuelling aid to the Saudi Arabian-led military coalition fighting in Yemen.	Saudi Arabia; USA; Yemen
9 Nov.	Russia hosts talks with Taliban delegates and members of Afghanistan's High Peace Council.	Afghanistan; Russia; Taliban
9 Nov.	Several bomb attacks in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, kill at least 53 people and injure more than 100. Al-Shabab claims responsibility.	Al-Shabab; Somalia
12 Nov.	French President Emmanuel Macron launches the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace at the UNESCO Internet Governance Forum (IGF).	Cybersecurity; France
12–13 Nov.	Libya's two main rival leaders meet for the first time in more than five months at a conference hosted by Italy—a step towards a reconfigured UN peace plan and elections in 2019.	Libya
12–13 Nov.	An Israeli army officer and seven Palestinians, including a local Hamas commander, are killed after an incursion by Israeli special forces into the Gaza Strip. After two days of fighting, an Egyptian-mediated ceasefire is agreed between Israel and Hamas.	Israel; Palestine

14 Nov.	The UN Security Council lifts sanctions on Eritrea, including an arms embargo, travel ban and asset freeze, which had been in effect since 2009.	Eritrea; UN sanctions
14 Nov.	Eight UN peacekeepers and at least 12 Congolese soldiers are killed in a joint military operation against rebels in the north-eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).	DRC; Ebola; UN peacekeeping
18 Nov.	The annual Asia-Pacific Economic (APEC) Summit concludes in Papua New Guinea but fails to agree a final communiqué for the first time since the initial APEC leaders meeting in 1993, due to disagreements between the USA and China.	APEC; China; USA
19–20 Nov.	The 23rd Conference of the States Parties to the CWC meets in the Hague, Netherlands, to agree a 2019 programme and budget.	CWC; OPCW
20 Nov.	A bomb at a Sunni religious celebration in Kabul, Afghanistan, kills at least 50 people and injures at least 80 more. No group claims responsibility for the attack.	Afghanistan
21–23 Nov.	The High Contracting Parties to the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) hold their regular annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.	CCW
21–30 Nov.	The Fourth Review Conference of the CWC takes place in The Hague, Netherlands, but is unable to reach consensus.	CWC
24 Nov.	Syria calls on the UN to condemn rebel forces in the wake of an alleged chemical attack in Aleppo that wounds more than 100 people. The origins of the attack and substance used are unclear, but the OPCW is to investigate.	CWs; OPCW; Syria
25 Nov.	The US Customs and Border Protection Agency shuts the border crossing at Tijuana, Mexico, and fires tear gas at around 500 Central American migrants trying to evade a Mexican police blockade on the border.	Mexico; migrant caravan; USA
25–26 Nov.	Russia–Ukraine tensions escalate as Russia opens fire on and seizes three Ukrainian Navy ships near the Kerch Strait. The next day, the Ukrainian Parliament approves President Petro Poroshenko's proposal to impose martial law in Ukraine for 30 days.	Russia; Ukraine
28 Nov.	In Geneva, Switzerland, Afghan President Ghani announces a new updated peace plan that builds on the earlier Kabul Process and says implementation will take five years.	Afghanistan; Kabul Process
28 Nov.	The US Senate votes 63 to 37 to consider limiting US involvement in Yemen under the War Powers Resolution, after being denied a CIA briefing on the death of Jamal Khashoggi.	Saudi Arabia; USA; Yemen
29 Nov.	A truth commission becomes operational in Colombia, aiming to assess the root causes of the country's internal armed conflict and promote national reconciliation.	Colombia
29 Nov.	A draft US presidential directive sets out plans to establish a Space Force.	USA; Space Force

30 Nov.	The USA, Mexico and Canada sign a trade deal to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new trilateral agreement will be known as the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and still needs to be ratified by all three states (NAFTA remains in force until then).	Canada; Mexico; USA; NAFTA; USMCA
<i>December</i>		
2 Dec.	The Taliban's most senior commander in southern Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Manan, is reportedly killed in a US air strike.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
2 Dec.	The West Papua National Liberation Army claims responsibility for killing at least 31 people in Papua province, Indonesia.	Indonesia
4 Dec.	The USA announces that it will withdraw from the INF Treaty within 60 days unless Russia resumes compliance with the treaty.	INF Treaty; Russia; USA
4–7 Dec.	The annual Meeting of States Parties to the BWC agrees only minimal outcomes and nothing of substance from the Meetings of Experts in August.	BWC
6 Dec.	Houthi forces and the Saudi Arabian-backed coalition supporting Yemeni President Abdu Rabbu Mansour agree to exchange almost 5000 prisoners. This is the first of several confidence-building measures agreed at the start of peace talks in Sweden.	Saudi Arabia; Yemen
10 Dec.	The UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is signed in Marrakech, Morocco, by 164 states. It is the first ever international agreement aimed at coordinating action on migration around the world.	GCM; migration; UN
11 Dec.	Gambia ratifies the CCM.	Gambia; CCM
11 Dec.	A gunman kills 5 people and wounds 11 others at a Christmas market in Strasbourg, France. The attacker is killed by police two days later. The Islamic State claims responsibility for the attack.	Islamic State; France
13 Dec.	Following a week of UN-led peace talks in Sweden, the Saudi Arabian-backed Government of Yemen and Houthi forces agree a ceasefire in the port city of Hodeidah, Yemen, to allow humanitarian access.	Saudi Arabia; UN; Yemen
13 Dec.	The US Senate votes to end US support for the Saudi Arabian-led war in Yemen and to condemn Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi.	Saudi Arabia; USA; Yemen
14 Dec.	UN climate change talks in Poland agree on a kind of rulebook for implementing the 2015 Paris climate agreement, but some difficult questions are deferred.	Climate change; Paris climate agreement; UN
14 Dec.	The Kosovan Parliament approves the government's plan to transform the lightly armed Kosovo Security Force into a national army.	Kosovo
14 Dec.	Russia suggests discussions with the USA on mutual inspections in order to save the INF Treaty.	INF Treaty; Russia; USA
15–16 Dec.	The USA conducts six air strikes on al-Shabab positions in Gandarshe, Somalia, killing over 60 suspected militants.	Al-Shabab; Somalia; USA

<i>17 Dec.</i>	The Global Compact on Refugees, which builds on existing international law on the treatment of refugees, is adopted by the UN General Assembly.	UN; Global Compact on Refugees
<i>17 Dec.</i>	US officials meet with representatives of the Afghan Taliban in the UAE as part of an effort to establish a basis for future peace negotiations.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
<i>19 Dec.</i>	The GCM is endorsed by 152 countries in the UN General Assembly.	UN; GCM
<i>19 Dec.</i>	Russia says that it will not permit the USA to inspect its nuclear-capable cruise missile, which the USA alleges violates the INF Treaty.	INF Treaty; Russia; USA
<i>19 Dec.</i>	President Trump orders a full and rapid withdrawal of over 2000 US troops in Syria and declares victory over the Islamic State.	Islamic State; Syria; USA
<i>20 Dec.</i>	President Trump orders the withdrawal of approximately 7000 US troops from Afghanistan, which will halve the US military presence. The US Defence Secretary, James Mattis, resigns in the wake of the decisions to withdraw troops from Syria and Afghanistan.	Afghanistan; USA
<i>22 Dec.</i>	An al-Shabab car bomb kills at least 16 people and wounds more than 20 others in Mogadishu, Somalia.	Al-Shabab; Somalia
<i>24 Dec.</i>	An attack on the Afghan Ministry of Public Works in Kabul kills at least 43 people and wounds 25 others. It is unclear who carried out the attack.	Afghanistan
<i>28 Dec.</i>	Boko Haram launches a series of attacks in north-eastern Nigeria, hoisting its flag over several towns and overrunning a multinational military base.	Boko Haram; Nigeria
<i>29 Dec.</i>	Egyptian security forces kill 40 suspected militants in three separate raids in north Sinai and Giza, a day after a bomb attack on a tourist bus kills 4 people.	Egypt
<i>30 Dec.</i>	After being delayed for two years, presidential elections finally take place in the DRC.	DRC