

# Annex C. Chronology 2022

This chronology lists the significant events in 2022 related to armaments, disarmament and international security. Keywords are indicated in the right-hand column.

## January

- 3 Jan. The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (P5) issue a joint statement on the need to prevent nuclear war. Nuclear arms control; P5
- 6–19 Jan. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) deploys its first multilateral peace operation, the CTSO Collective Peacekeeping Forces to Kazakhstan, when violent protests spark a domestic crisis in Kazakhstan. CSTO; Kazakhstan; peace operation
- 9 Jan. At least 200 people are killed and 10 000 displaced by armed gangs in the north-western Nigerian state of Zamfara, after military raids on their camps, amid a continuing struggle for order in the region. Nigeria
- 10 Jan. The United States reports 1.34 million new Covid-19 infections, a global record, with the Omicron variant accounting for an estimated 95 per cent of cases. Covid-19; USA
- 10 Jan. An extraordinary meeting of the Strategic Stability Dialogue is held between US and Russian delegations in Geneva. The two sides exchange security concerns but differences on several key issues are intractable. nuclear arms control; Russia; USA
- 13 Jan. Australia equals the hottest temperature on record of 50.7°C in Onslow, Western Australia. Australia; climate change
- 17 Jan.–2 Feb. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is hit by several uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV, drone) and missile attacks amid an escalation of the conflict in Yemen. UAE; Yemen
- 21 Jan. A detention centre in Sa'dah, Yemen, held by rebel Houthis is attacked, killing more than 70 people. The Saudi Arabian-led coalition fighting Houthi forces in the country denies it carried out the air strike. Yemen
- 24 Jan. The military in Burkina Faso seizes power and overthrows President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré in a coup. Burkina Faso; coup
- 30 Jan. Kurdish-led militia and US forces regain control of Sinaa prison in Hasaka, Syria, after a week-long assault by Islamic State forces, with the loss of 500 lives. Islamic State; Syria; USA

## February

- 1 Feb. An attack by armed militants on the Plaine Savo camp for displaced persons in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) kills 60 people. DRC

- 3 Feb.* An operation by US forces in north-western Syria results in the death of Islamic State leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi. Islamic State; Syria; USA
- 3 Feb.* The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Guinea Bissau Stabilisation Support Mission is established following a coup attempt against Guinea-Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embaló. The peace operation starts deployment in Apr. 2022. ECOWAS; Guinea-Bissau; peace operation
- 4 Feb.* In a joint statement, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping avow that their partnership has no limits, with no areas where cooperation is off the table. China; Russia
- 8 Feb.* The UN World Food Programme (WFP) warns that 13 million people in the Horn of Africa are facing a humanitarian crisis, amid a drought where the rainy season has failed three years in a row. climate change; Horn of Africa
- 12 Feb.* Operation Barkhane, the French-led counterterrorist force in the Sahel region, kills 40 suspected militants in air strikes in Burkina Faso. The militants are said to be linked to earlier attacks by non-state armed groups in neighbouring Benin. Benin; Burkina Faso; France; Operation Barkhane
- 14 Feb.* Climate scientists declare the megadrought affecting the south-west USA as the worst for 1200 years. climate change; USA
- 21 Feb.* Australia's international border reopens to tourists who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 after being closed for 704 days—nearly two years. Australia; Covid-19
- 21 Feb.* President Putin recognizes Russian-backed separatists in two Ukrainian regions, Donetsk and Luhansk, ordering in troops for so-called peacekeeping functions. Russia; Ukraine
- 22 Feb.* US President Joe Biden announces new sanctions against Russia, saying its latest moves in Ukraine amount to the start of a Russian invasion. Russia; Ukraine; USA
- 24 Feb.* Russia launches a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which it describes as a special military operation for the 'demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine'. Western states condemn the invasion and rally behind Ukraine. Russia-Ukraine War
- 24 Feb.* A cyberattack targets Viasat, a satellite communications company, impacting users in Ukraine and other parts of Europe. cyber; Russia-Ukraine War; space
- 27 Feb.* Several countries sanction Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, the European Union (EU) closes its airspace to Russian aeroplanes and Russian banks are excluded from the worldwide Swift payment system. Europe faces a major humanitarian crisis with 18 million Ukrainians displaced and 4 million refugees fleeing the country. refugees; Russia-Ukraine War; sanctions
- 28 Feb.* A report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns climate change is outpacing human efforts to adapt. If the world's average temperatures rise by 1.5°C—the goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change—it estimates up to 14 per cent of land species face a very high risk of extinction. climate change; IPCC

*March*

- 1 Mar. Russia and the USA establish a military-to-military deconfliction line to reduce the risks of miscalculation amid the war in Ukraine. Russia; USA
- 2 Mar. UN states agree to create a legally binding plastic pollution treaty (to be completed in 2024) after talks in Nairobi, Kenya. plastic pollution treaty; UN
- 2 Mar. Rafael Mariano Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), sets out seven pillars of nuclear safety and security in the light of growing concerns about Russian military attacks on Ukrainian nuclear infrastructure. IAEA; nuclear safety; Russia–Ukraine War
- 3 Mar. Russian forces seize the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine—the largest in Europe. nuclear risk; Russia–Ukraine War; nuclear risk
- 4 Mar. A bomb attack by Islamic State–Khorasan Province on a Shia mosque in the Pakistani city of Peshawar kills at least 63 people and injures 196. Islamic State–Khorasan Province; Pakistan
- 7–10 Mar. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the global death toll from Covid-19 has surpassed 6 million. A study by Washington University on 10 Mar. estimates the global death toll from Covid-19 at 18.2 million. Covid-19
- 9 Mar. India accidentally launches a conventional BrahMos cruise missile into Pakistani territory during a ‘routine maintenance and inspection’ exercise. India; Pakistan
- 14 Mar. Civilians can leave the heavily bombed Ukrainian city of Mariupol for the first time, amid a death toll of 2500 and a humanitarian crisis in the city. Russia–Ukraine War
- 24 Mar. North Korea test launches what it claims to be an intercontinental ballistic missile test, ending a self-imposed moratorium on that type of delivery system. missile proliferation; North Korea
- 24 Mar. The Ethiopian government and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) agree to a humanitarian ceasefire in the war that broke out in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia in Nov. 2020. ceasefire; Ethiopia; TPLF
- 27 Mar. El Salvador declares a state of emergency and launches an anti-gang crackdown that raises concerns about government repression. El Salvador
- 27–31 Mar. Malian armed forces and mercenaries from the Russian Wagner Group allegedly kill up to 300 civilians in the central Malian town of Moura. Mali; Wagner Group
- 29 Mar. In a major victory for Ukraine, Russia announces it is withdrawing its forces from around Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv. Russia–Ukraine War
- 29 Mar. A helicopter of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) crashes in eastern DRC, killing eight peacekeepers. DRC; peace operation

31 Mar.	The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine officially closes, following Russia's refusal to join the consensus to extend its mandate for another year.	OSCE; peace operation; Ukraine
<i>April</i>		
1 Apr.	The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) replaces the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), with a mandate to support the national government in the fight against al-Shabab, develop national capacity and support peace and reconciliation in the country.	peace operations; Somalia
2 Apr.	Ukraine liberates the entire Kyiv region from retreating Russian forces.	Russia–Ukraine War
2 Apr.	A UN-mediated ceasefire is agreed between the Houthis and the internationally recognized Yemeni government. It includes a halt to all offensive military operations inside and outside Yemen.	ceasefire; UN; Yemen
4 Apr.	The Ukrainian government begins a war crimes investigation after 410 civilians are found dead following the withdrawal of Russian forces from around the Kyiv region.	Russia–Ukraine War; war crimes
13–18 Apr.	At least 448 people are killed after heavy rains and flooding in KwaZulu-Natal province, in what is described as one of the worst storms in South Africa's history. President Cyril Ramaphosa declares a national state of disaster on 18 Apr.	climate change; South Africa
14 Apr.	The cruiser <i>Moskva</i> , the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet and part of its weeks-long offensive in southern and central Ukraine, sinks amid conflicting accounts.	Russia–Ukraine War
24 Apr.	Violent clashes between Arab nomads and members of the Masalit community in Sudan's West Darfur state result in the deaths of at least 168 people.	Sudan
26 Apr.	The USA announces the formation of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group (Ramstein Group), with more than 40 member states, to coordinate Western military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.	Russia–Ukraine War
26 Apr.	The World Bank warns the war in Ukraine will cause the largest commodity shock since the 1970s, with large economic and humanitarian effects.	Russia–Ukraine War; World Bank
28 Apr.	Russian missiles strike Kyiv during a visit by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.	Russia–Ukraine War
29 Apr.	The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) celebrates the 25th anniversary of its entry into force.	CWC
<i>May</i>		
5 May	A WHO report of excess deaths worldwide says 15 million more people have died than normal, far above the official Covid-19 death toll of 6 million.	Covid-19; WHO
11 May	Costa Rica declares a state of emergency after a ransomware attack infiltrates and cripples several government agencies.	Costa Rica; cyberattack
14 May	The USA records 1 million Covid-19 deaths.	Covid-19; USA

15 May	Mali announces its withdrawal from the G5 Sahel and its Joint Force.	G5 Sahel; Mali
15–16 May	Finland says it intends to apply to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, ending decades of military non-alignment. A day later, Sweden also announces its intention to join after 200 years of military non-alignment.	Finland; NATO; Sweden
16 May	Ukraine evacuates the last of its forces from the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol, which had become a symbol of Ukrainian resistance.	Russia–Ukraine War
16 May	US President Biden approves the redeployment of several hundred US ground troops to Somalia, reversing a decision by President Donald J. Trump.	Somalia; USA
23 May	The USA, together with 13 other founding member states (including India, Japan and South Korea), launches the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)—an economic alliance of Asia-Pacific states to counter Chinese influence.	IPEF; USA
<i>June</i>		
5 June	An attack on a church in the city of Owo in Ondo State, Nigeria, kills at least 40 people. Islamic State–West Africa Province is suspected of carrying out the attack.	Islamic State–West Africa Province; Nigeria
14 June–30 Sep.	During its monsoon season, Pakistan experiences a series of deadly floods that claim 1739 lives.	climate change; Pakistan
18 June	Ethnic violence in western Ethiopia leaves a reported 250 people dead, killed by Oromo rebels amid worsening ethnic conflict in the country.	Ethiopia
20 June	In the face of the deteriorating situation in eastern DRC, the East African Community (EAC) establishes its first peace operation: the EAC Regional Force in the DRC.	DRC; peace operation
21 June	The USA announces a new policy on anti-personnel mines (APMs), effectively banning their transfer, development, production or acquisition—the fifth change in US policy on this issue in as many administrations, dating back to the 1990s.	APMs; USA
21–23 June	The first meeting of states parties to the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) reaches agreement on several key issues. As well as establishing a scientific advisory group, the parties unanimously adopt two outcome documents.	TPNW
25 June	Russia announces it will provide Belarus with nuclear-capable Iskander-M missiles and is willing to upgrade the country’s combat aircraft to allow them to carry tactical nuclear weapons.	Belarus; nuclear weapons; Russia
25 June	The eastern Ukrainian city of Severodonetsk falls to Russian forces after weeks of fighting in the area.	Russia–Ukraine War
27–30 June	NATO’s Madrid Summit agrees a new strategic concept, strengthened deterrence and defence, more support for Ukraine and membership invitations for Finland and Sweden.	NATO

27 June– 1 July	At the eighth biennial meeting of states parties to the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (POA), states agree to consider the impact of technological developments on manufacturing of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and acknowledge the gender-related impact of illicit SALW.	POA; SALW
28–29 June	Indirect talks between Iran and the USA to restore the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) resume in Doha, Qatar, without results.	Iran; JCPOA; USA
30 June	The International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Mindanao, the Philippines, ends after almost two decades of monitoring activities.	peace operation; Philippines
30 June	The French-led European multinational Task Force Takuba officially ceases operating in Mali, ending a year-long counterterrorism effort in the country that soured after military coups in 2020 and 2021.	France; Mali; Task Force Takuba
<i>July</i>		
8–17 July	Ten days of gang violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, result in 208 people being killed and a further 254 injured with gunshot wounds.	Haiti
9 July	A Russian air strike on a residential building in Chasiv Yar, eastern Ukraine, kills at least 47 people.	Russia–Ukraine War
14 July	A temperature of 47°C is recorded in Pinhão, Portugal—the highest in a series of persistent summer heatwaves affecting much of Europe. From June to Aug., the heatwaves cause wildfires and evacuations across mainland Europe, and over 20 000 heat-related deaths, making it the deadliest meteorological event in 2022.	climate change; Europe
22 July	In a deal brokered by the UN and Türkiye, Russia and Ukraine sign the Black Sea Grain Initiative to resume exports of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea. Ukraine is one of the world’s biggest wheat exporters, and the blockade pushed up global food prices.	food security; Russia–Ukraine War
<i>August</i>		
1 Aug.	The first grain ship leaves the Ukrainian port of Odesa as part of the deal brokered by the UN and Türkiye in July.	food security; Russia–Ukraine War
1–26 Aug.	The 10th review conference of the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) fails to reach consensus on the contents of a substantive final outcome document.	NPT
3 Aug.	Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives visits Taiwan—the first US speaker to do so in 25 years—prompting condemnation from China.	China; Taiwan; USA
4 Aug.	All signatories to the 2018 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan agree to a road map extending the transitional period by 24 months to enable the implementation of its key outstanding tasks.	South Sudan

7 Aug.	A ceasefire comes into effect in Gaza after 43 people were killed in three days of violence between the Israeli military and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.	Israel; Palestine
8 Aug.	Russia informs the USA that, in response to sanctions linked to the war in Ukraine, it will not resume inspections under the New START nuclear arms control treaty.	New START; Russia; USA
17 Aug.	China issues its highest red alert heat warning for at least 138 cities and counties amid the country's longest heatwave since records began (64 days).	climate change; China
19 Aug.	A 30-hour hotel siege by al-Shabab militants begins in Mogadishu, Somalia, resulting in 21 dead and 117 injured.	al-Shabab; Somalia
20 Aug.	The WFP warns that 22 million people are now at risk of starvation in the Horn of Africa, up 9 million since February, after the worst drought in 40 years.	climate change; food security; Horn of Africa
24 Aug.	Fighting erupts in northern Ethiopia between government and Tigrayan forces, breaking a five-month humanitarian truce.	Ethiopia
28 Aug.	Pakistan appeals for international aid as the death toll from monsoon rain and floods rises to over 1000 people.	climate change; Pakistan
29 Aug.	Violence in the Iraqi capital Baghdad results in 30 people being killed and 700 injured after Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr announces he is withdrawing from politics.	Iraq
29 Aug.– 3 Sep.	After several months of diplomacy between the IAEA, Russia and Ukraine, the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhya takes place to help stabilize the nuclear safety and security situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. It is the fourth mission of IAEA technical experts to Ukrainian nuclear sites during 2022.	IAEA; nuclear safety; Russia–Ukraine War
30 Aug.– 10 Sep.	The 10th meeting of states parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions expresses grave concern over the use of cluster munitions in Ukraine.	cluster munitions; Russia–Ukraine War
31 Aug.	The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights releases a report accusing China of serious human rights abuses against Uighurs in its western Xinjiang region.	China; human rights; UN
<i>September</i>		
2 Sep.	Russian state-controlled energy company Gazprom indefinitely suspends supplies of natural gas to Europe via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, amid accusations of weaponizing its energy supplies.	energy security; Russia–Ukraine War
8 Sep.	The North Korean Parliament adopts a new nuclear doctrine for the country that specifies updated principles and conditions for the use of nuclear weapons.	North Korea; nuclear weapons
10 Sep.	UN Secretary-General António Guterres calls for international support for flood-ravaged Pakistan, where 33 million people are displaced and damage is estimated at \$30 billion.	climate change; Pakistan

12 Sep.	An outbreak of fighting on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan kills about 100 soldiers.	Armenia; Azerbaijan
14–21 Sep.	Border clashes between Kyrgyz and Tajik forces result in at least 100 deaths, including 37 civilians.	Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan
14 Sep.	The head of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, says the end of the Covid-19 pandemic is in sight. The health crisis has killed over 6 million people since early 2020.	Covid-19; WHO
15 Sep.	Ukrainian authorities reveal the discovery of a mass grave with 450 bodies near Izyum, some showing evidence of torture, after the withdrawal of Russian forces.	Russia–Ukraine War; war crimes
16 Sep.	Mahsa Amini dies in the custody of Iran’s Guidance Patrol (morality police), sparking widespread protests throughout the country against the mistreatment of women. By the end of 2022, Iranian security forces had killed as many as 450 protesters.	Iran; women’s rights
21 Sep.	President Putin announces a partial mobilization of the Russian population, drafting between 300 000 and 1.2 million men to fight against Ukraine, prompting demonstrations around the country.	Russia–Ukraine War
26 Sep.	Two Nord Stream pipelines delivering Russian gas to Europe are sabotaged by explosions in Swedish and Danish waters. The identities of the perpetrators and the motives behind the sabotage are unknown.	energy security; Russia–Ukraine War;
30 Sep.	President Putin announces Russia’s illegal annexation of four Ukrainian provinces, Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia, despite Russia occupying only part of each region.	Russia–Ukraine War
30 Sep.	A coup in Burkina Faso removes interim President Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba over his alleged inability to deal with the country’s Islamist insurgency. Damiba had come to power in a coup just eight months earlier.	Burkina Faso; coup
<i>October</i>		
1 Oct.	Ukrainian forces make Russian forces retreat from the town of Lyman in Donetsk, barely a day after President Putin announced Russia’s illegal annexation of Donetsk.	Russia–Ukraine War
2 Oct.	The UN-mediated truce in Yemen ends as the warring sides reject a proposal presented by UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg to extend and expand the Apr. agreement.	Yemen
8 Oct.	The Kerch bridge, built by Russia to link Crimea to Russia and a symbol of Russia’s illegal occupation of Ukraine, is partly damaged in a sabotage attack.	Russia–Ukraine War
12 Oct.	The UN General Assembly passes a resolution condemning Russia’s attempted annexation of Ukrainian territory.	Russia–Ukraine War; UN General Assembly
16 Oct.	Flooding in Nigeria that began in early summer is the worst seasonal flooding in a decade, resulting in over 600 deaths and more than 1.3 million displaced people.	climate change; Nigeria

21 Oct.	A partial UN arms embargo is imposed on Haiti. Initially proposed by China in July, it is the only new multilateral arms embargo in 2022 and the first new UN arms embargo since 2018.	arms embargo; Haiti; UN
27 Oct.	The USA publishes an unclassified version of its Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) as part of its 2022 National Defense Strategy. The NPR establishes US nuclear policy, strategy, capabilities and force posture for the next 5–10 years. The NPR supports retention of a triad and continued investments in most existing major US nuclear modernization programmes.	nuclear weapons; USA
29 Oct.	Twin car bombs planted by al-Shabab militants in Mogadishu, Somalia, kill at least 120 people.	al-Shabab; Somalia
<i>November</i>		
2 Nov.	North Korea test launches at least 23 ballistic missiles, the highest number ever launched by the country in a single day.	ballistic missiles; North Korea;
2 Nov.	The Ethiopian government and Tigrayan leaders sign a peace deal that ends a two-year long civil war which displaced more than 5.1 million people.	Ethiopia; peace agreement; Tigray
9 Nov.	Russia announces a retreat from the strategically important city of Kherson in southern Ukraine, eight months after capturing the area, in one of the most significant reversals of the Russian war effort.	Russia–Ukraine War
9 Nov.	France formally announces the end of Operation Barkhane, a counterterrorist operation in the Sahel region that started in August 2014. France had begun withdrawing its troops from Mali on 17 Feb. 2022 and had fully withdrawn its forces from the country on 15 Aug. 2022.	France; Mali; Operation Barkhane; Sahel
15 Nov.	At the Group of Twenty (G20) meeting in Indonesia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky proposes a 10-point peace plan to end the war in his country.	Russia–Ukraine War
15 Nov.	During a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Chinese President Xi and US President Biden agree to work to reduce mutual tensions and pledge cooperation in areas such as climate change and public health.	China; G20; USA
15 Nov.	The UN reports that the global population has reached 8 billion, just 11 years after passing 7 billion, although the rate of growth is now slowing down (expected to reach 9 billion by about 2037).	global population
18 Nov.	After many years of failing to make progress in addressing the humanitarian harm of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA), a process led by Ireland results in the adoption of a political declaration on this issue by 83 states.	EWIPA
20 Nov.	The 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, ends with a loss and damage agreement that commits wealthy countries to compensate poor countries harmed by climate change.	climate change; COP27; UNFCCC

- 28 Nov.–  
16 Dec. The ninth review conference of the 1972 Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BWC) agrees an inter-sessional programme of work for 2023–26 and establishes a working group on strengthening the BWC. BWC
- December*
- 1–2 Dec. For the first time, the annual OSCE Ministerial Council meeting fails to adopt any decisions, including a budget. Fallout from the Russia–Ukraine War is blamed. OSCE; Russia–Ukraine War
- 5 Dec. At least two of Russia’s strategic bombers are damaged by a Ukrainian air strike on Engels airbase in Saratov Oblast, Russia. Russia–Ukraine War
- 5 Dec. Iran closes its morality police in a concession to three months of nationwide protests, but the police force seems likely to continue in a different form. Iran
- 5 Dec. The Sudanese military conclude a framework agreement with dozens of civilian leaders in which the generals promise to relinquish much of their political power. Sudan
- 7 Dec. After widespread public protests China announces a major loosening of Covid-19 restrictions, allowing home quarantine and scrapping Covid-tracking QR codes, and effectively ending its zero-Covid policy. China; Covid-19
- 7 Dec. The UN General Assembly adopts by consensus the Principles on the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts, which call for designated protection zones, the application of international humanitarian law to the environment and rules to protect the environment during times of occupation. environment and armed conflict; UN General Assembly
- 13 Dec. The IAEA and Ukraine agree to establish a continuous presence at Ukraine’s four nuclear power plants, with teams of nuclear safety and security experts. IAEA; nuclear safety; Ukraine
- 16 Dec. Japan announces its biggest military build-up since World War II, amid concerns over China and North Korea. Japan; military spending
- 19 Dec. The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) successfully adopts a new framework for action to halt biodiversity loss. CBD; COP15
- 20 Dec. The Taliban-led government suspend university education for female students in Afghanistan as part of a wider crackdown on women’s rights in the country. Afghanistan; women’s rights
- 26 Dec. Taiwan reports 71 Chinese Air Force aircraft, including combat aircraft and drones, entering its air defence identification zone, in the largest reported incursion to date. China; Taiwan
- 29 Dec. The African Union Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission is launched in Mekele, the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Ethiopia; peace operation