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## **US to refuse visas to Palestinian officials at UN summit on state**

Shaun TANDON

659 words

29 August 2025

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Agence France Presse

AFPR

English

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The United States said Friday it will deny visas to members of the Palestinian Authority to attend next month's UN General Assembly, where France is leading a push to recognize a Palestinian state.

The extraordinary step further aligns President Donald Trump's administration with Israel's government, which is fighting a war against Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza.

Israel adamantly rejects a Palestinian state and has sought to lump together the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority with rival Hamas.

"Secretary of State Marco Rubio is denying and revoking visas from members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) ahead of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly," the State Department said in a statement.

"The Trump administration has been clear: it is in our national security interests to hold the PLO and PA accountable for not complying with their commitments, and for undermining the prospects for peace," it said.

Using a term favored by Trump to deride his legal troubles while out of office, the State Department accused the Palestinians of "lawfare" by turning to the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice to take up grievances with Israel.

It called on the Palestinian Authority to drop "efforts to secure the unilateral recognition of a conjectural Palestinian state."

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, writing on X, thanked the Trump administration "for this bold step and for standing by Israel once again."

The Palestinian Authority called for the United States to reverse its decision, which it said "stands in clear contradiction to international law and the UN Headquarters Agreement."

Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas, a veteran 89-year-old leader who once had cordial relations with Washington, had planned to attend the UN meeting, according to the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations, Riyadh Mansour.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said it was "important" for all states and observers, which includes the Palestinians, to be represented at a summit scheduled for the day before the General Assembly begins.

"We obviously hope that this will be resolved," Dujarric said.

The United States and Israel have accused France and other powers of rewarding Hamas, which launched an unprecedented attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, through their recognition of a Palestinian state.

French President Emmanuel Macron, exasperated by the relentless nearly two-year Israeli offensive on Gaza in response to the attack, has argued that there can be no further delay in pushing forward a peace process.

Since his announcement, Canada and Australia also said they would recognize a Palestinian state and Britain said it would do so unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza.

Under an agreement as host of the United Nations in New York, the United States is not supposed to refuse visas for officials heading to the world body.

The State Department insisted it was complying with the agreement by allowing the Palestinian mission.

Activists each year press the United States to deny visas to leaders of countries that they oppose, often over grave human rights violations, but their appeals are almost always rejected.

In a historic step in 1988, the General Assembly convened in Geneva rather than New York to hear PLO leader Yasser Arafat after the United States refused to allow him in New York.

In 2013, the United States refused a visa to Sudan's then president Omar al-Bashir, who faces an ICC arrest warrant over allegations of genocide in Darfur.

Trump plans to attend the General Assembly, where he will deliver one of the first speeches in a marathon session of leaders, but his administration has sharply curtailed relations with the United Nations and other international institutions.

Trump has moved to pull out of the World Health Organization and **UN climate** pact. He has also moved to slap sanctions on ICC judges over an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

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**Today in History for Aug. 28:**

The Canadian Press

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Today in History for Aug. 28:

On this date:

In 430, St. Augustine of Hippo, the great early Latin Church father and one of the outstanding theological figures of the ages, died at age 76. It was St. Augustine who wrote: "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in thee." His greatest work was "City of God."

In 1619, Ferdinand II was crowned Holy Roman Emperor.

In 1749, German author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was born.

In 1789, Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons, was discovered. Scientists think the moon may have underground fluids, making it one of the top planets in the solar system where extraterrestrial life might exist.

In 1828, Count Leo Tolstoy, one of the world's great classical writers, was born at Yasnaya Polyana, in Russia. Tolstoy did not distinguish himself in university, but began making his mark as a writer in 1854 with his brilliant sketches of the Crimean War. After his return from the war, Tolstoy freed the serfs at his estate and became a social reformer. His masterpieces include "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina."

In 1833, an act abolishing slavery throughout the British Colonies received royal assent. It came into force on Aug. 1, 1834. It was the result of a campaign by abolitionists internationally, and in the British Parliament by an alliance of Evangelical Anglicans and Quakers led by MP William Wilberforce.

In 1846, the British Possessions Act gave the provinces power to enact their own tariff and other agreements. The act, which was passed in London, allowed colonial legislatures to reduce or repeal imperial customs duties they were subject to, and allowed them to have free trade.

In 1861, William Lyon Mackenzie, a central figure of his time, Toronto's first mayor and leader in the Upper Canada rebellion of 1837, died in 1861. He was 66. After three years in the Upper Canada legislature, he was expelled for breach of privilege and not allowed to resume his seat, although his constituents re-elected him five times. In December 1837, he led about 750 rural supporters in an uprising that took the form of two skirmishes near Toronto. When they were put down, he fled to the United States but returned under amnesty in 1849. He was re-elected in 1851, but retired from politics in 1858.

In 1872, the world's first "Wild West Show" was staged at Niagara Falls, Ont. The main attraction was American frontiersman James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickock who appeared in "Buffalo Bill's" show until 1874. Hickock's reputation as a marksman made him a celebrity in the travelling show.

In 1904, the first jail sentence for speeding was handed down in Newport, R.I. -- five days -- for driving 32 km/h.

In 1907, United Parcel Service had its beginnings as the American Messenger Company of Seattle.

In 1913, author Robertson Davies was born at Thamesville, Ont. He died Dec. 2, 1995.

In 1914, British and German forces fought the first major naval battle of the First World War, the Battle of Heligoland Bight.

In 1916, Italy declared war on Germany during the First World War.

In 1919, Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, the British electrical engineer who invented the CAT (computerized axial tomography) scanner, was born. The scanner, first used in a London hospital in 1972, revolutionized health

care by producing photographs 100 times more detailed than X-rays. Hounsfield's work earned him a share of the 1979 Nobel Prize in medicine. He died Aug. 12, 2004.

In 1922, radio station WEAJ in New York City aired the first radio commercial -- a 10-minute pitch for a new co-op apartment house.

In 1926, the Soviet ship "Buryvestnik" struck a pier at Kronstadt, USSR, killing 300 people.

In 1947, legendary bullfighter Manolete died after being gored during a fight in Linares, Spain. He was 30.

In 1957, three armed men stole \$5,400 in American funds from a CNR passenger train on a run from Windsor, Ont., to Toronto. It was Canada's first train robbery since 1928.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech to almost 250,000 demonstrators in Washington in front of the Lincoln Memorial. "I have a dream that one day ... the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together," the civil rights leader said. King was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent battle against discrimination and poverty. He was assassinated in Memphis in April 1968.

In 1968, "Les Belles-Soeurs," by playwright Michel Tremblay, premiered in Quebec City. It was one of the first artistic uses of the street language called "joul."

In 1982, "Today" magazine, distributed in 18 Canadian newspapers with a circulation of three million, published its last issue.

In 1983, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin announced his resignation.

In 1985, a planned mass march on Pollsmoor Prison in South Africa to demand the release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela was crushed by police who used whips, tear gas and shotguns to disperse the demonstrators. At least six people were killed and dozens were injured. Mandela was finally released on Feb. 11, 1990.

In 1988, the worst crash during an air show took place at the U.S. airbase in Ramstein, then in West Germany. Three Italian air force jets collided above a crowd of 300,000, killing 70 people and injuring 500. Opposition to military air shows mushroomed after the tragedy and NATO allies suspended future air shows as they tried to figure out how to make them safer.

In 1990, during the Persian Gulf crisis, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ordered the release of all foreign women and children being detained in Iraq and Kuwait.

In 1994, the Commonwealth Games came to a close in Victoria, with Canada placing second after Australia with 128 medals.

In 1996, CBC Radio's "Morningside" host Peter Gzowski announced his retirement.

In 1996, the divorce of Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, became final.

In 1999, the crew of the Russian space station Mir headed back to Earth, leaving the station unmanned in preparation for its abandonment in 2000.

In 2003, North Korea announced its plans to conduct a nuclear test to prove its status as the world's newest nuclear power.

In 2007, Steven Truscott, the youngest Canadian to ever face a death sentence nearly half a century ago, was acquitted by the Ontario Court of Appeal of the 1959 rape and murder of 12-year-old Lynne Harper. The court ruled Truscott was a victim of a "miscarriage of justice."

In 2008, Major League Baseball instituted instant replay.

In 2009, the Los Angeles County coroner officially declared Michael Jackson's death a homicide. Forensic tests determined the cause of death was "acute propofol intoxication." His personal doctor, Conrad Murray, was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to four years in prison.

In 2013, U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan was sentenced to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, which killed 13 people and wounded more than 30.

In 2018, a 16-year-old youth was charged in a southern Alberta highway shooting that left a German tourist with a serious brain injury. RCMP said the teen from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation was facing 14 charges, including attempted murder and possession of a prohibited firearm.

In 2018, an independent study ordered by Puerto Rico found Hurricane Maria killed nearly 3,000 people in the U.S. territory in the desperate, sweltering months after the storm - with the elderly and impoverished most affected.

In 2019, the Queen approved British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's request to suspend Parliament from September 9-October 14. The suspension took many vacationing lawmakers by surprise giving M-PPs even less time to block a so-called no-deal Brexit. The speaker of the House of Commons, who was not told in advance of Johnson's plan, called it an "offence against the democratic process." The U-K is scheduled to leave the European Union October 31.

In 2019, Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg arrived in New York City following a trans-Atlantic trip on a sailboat to attend a global warming conference. The 16-year-old and her crew were escorted into a lower Manhattan marina - concluding a two-week crossing from Plymouth, England. She refused to fly because of the carbon emissions involved in jet travel. The teenager has led protests against climate change in Sweden that inspired student strikes in about 100 cities worldwide. She was to speak at a **United Nations climate summit** in September.

In 2020, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced he would step down because a chronic health problem he has had since he was a teenager has resurfaced. Abe said he was on a new treatment for ulcerative colitis that requires IV injections and provides no guarantee of a cure. Abe became Japan's youngest prime minister in 2006 at the age of 52, and this year became Japan's longest-serving prime minister by consecutive days in office.

In 2020, the co-creator of the famous Scooby-Doo cartoon series died at the age of 87. Joe Ruby came up with the idea with his TV writing partner Ken Spears in 1969.

In 2020, the federal government once again extended travel restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19. Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said existing restrictions on international travel to Canada would be extended one more month to Sept. 30.

In 2020, civil rights advocates gathered with the families of victims of police brutality and vigilante violence during a commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. This year's March on Washington was first planned after the killing of George Floyd. But the crowds were also there for Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake, and many others — demanding change and calling for real solutions to police shootings of Black Americans.

In 2020, friends, fans and colleagues lamented the death of actor Chadwick Boseman, who died at the age of 43 after a four-year battle with colon-cancer. Before he was a Marvel superstar, Boseman wowed audiences with his portrayals of baseball icon Jackie Robinson in "42" and James Brown in the biopic "Get On Up." His "Wakanda Forever" salute reverberated around the world after the release of "Black Panther" two years ago.

In 2021, the Pentagon says the military had begun its final withdrawal from Afghanistan amid a heightened threat of terrorist attacks. An official said the number of U.S. troops remaining had dropped to 4,000 or fewer, three days before President Joe Biden's deadline for getting out and ending the longest war in American history.

In 2022, six people died in a single-vehicle crash in Barrie, Ont. Police said four men and two women in their 20s were found dead.

In 2024, convicted Winnipeg serial killer Jeremy Skibicki was handed four concurrent life sentences for the first-degree murders of four Indigenous women. He must serve 25 years before he's eligible for parole. The judge said he was bound by law to impose the automatic sentence, adding the women's families deserve more than what can be accomplished in a courtroom. A sentencing hearing earlier heard victim impact statements from relatives and supporters.

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## **COP30** absence: Can Israel maintain its global climate impact? - opinion

AYELET LEVIN KARP

777 words

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For the first time since it began participating in **UN climate** conferences, Israel will not send an official state delegation to **COP30**, the world's biggest and most important forum for cooperation and decision-making in the development and climate fields, set to take place this year in Brazil. The decision, made against the backdrop of global criticism over the war in Gaza and concerns about provocations targeting the Israeli delegation, is undeniably dramatic.

Yet, contrary to popular belief, it does not signal the end of Israel's standing in the global arena of climate and international development. At a time when Israel is often perceived as part of the problem, it is essential to highlight the contribution it can make to global solutions.

First, there is no point in sugarcoating reality: Israel's absence from the conference has consequences that could damage our position in climate and development affairs.

Consequences of Israel's absence Among other things, it reduces Israel's influence on drafting the 2035 NDCs (the global framework that will bind nations in climate commitments), limits its ability to shape financing mechanisms for developing countries, weakens economic opportunities for Israeli innovation, and undermines the soft diplomacy that the country has carefully cultivated for years. Moreover, it narrows the access of private-sector companies and environmental organizations to key international platforms.

A volunteer with the Israeli Antique Authority holds a securing rope as he walks down to enter the Cave of the Skulls, an excavation site in the Judean Desert near the Dead Sea, Israel June 1, 2016. (credit: REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY) Still, despite the official absence, Israel retains enormous potential in climate change and international development. The country is home to NGOs active worldwide, pioneering technology companies in water, agriculture, renewable energy, and climate health, as well as universities leading research and international training programs.

Over the years, Israel's participation in COP conferences has enabled the creation of exceptional regional partnerships, including with countries with which it has few formal diplomatic ties, and strengthened its branding as an innovator in climate tech. These are areas that position Israel as a player capable of offering real solutions to global challenges, rather than being seen solely as a negative actor in other contexts.

The diversity of local stakeholders and accumulated expertise allow Israel to preserve its status even in times of crisis. All of this should, and must, serve it today, at a moment when its international standing in the field appears to be weakening.

What Israel should do To prevent further decline and maintain Israel's relevance on the world stage, action is required on several fronts simultaneously (some of which Israel has pursued in the past but has neglected in recent years):

- Formulating a national climate strategy for international representation – setting clear goals, narrative, and messaging that can strengthen Israel's positioning even without a physical presence at COP.
- Hosting a "mini-COP" in Israel – a parallel hybrid conference with live-streamed international speakers, tailored to the main **COP30** themes (such as health, education, energy, transport, and trade). This would connect civil society, business, and government actors; generate visibility and influence; and provide global access for students and researchers – the next generation of climate professionals.
- Participating in pilots and multilateral frameworks – joining regional or global projects such as the Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East Climate Change Initiative, WHO climate-health initiatives, or forest and biodiversity programs, while sharing knowledge from proven projects of MASHAV, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's Agency for International Development Cooperation, and recommending metrics for 2026.
- Digital dissemination of Israel's positions – publishing a policy paper or draft 2035 NDCs and distributing it to international stakeholders, journalists, and investors, to maintain political, economic, and scientific influence.
- Establishing a permanent cross-sector task force – involving government ministries, civil society, and academia working year-round rather than only

ahead of annual conferences. Its role would be to coordinate information, networks, and resources for coherent international engagement.

Israel's official absence is a warning sign, with the potential to harm the country's climate and development community. Yet rather than treating it as inevitable, the community should see it as a wake-up call. With a clear strategy and genuine cross-sector cooperation, Israel can preserve its international standing, continue leading meaningful projects, and ensure it remains a relevant actor in global climate and development: one that is seen as part of the solution, not just part of the problem.

The writer is CEO of SID Israel, the umbrella organization of the Israeli international aid and development community.

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## World's first commercial CO2 'graveyard' opens in Norway

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English

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The world's first commercial service offering carbon storage off Norway's coast has carried out its inaugural CO2 injection into the North Sea seabed, the Northern Lights consortium operating the site said Monday.

Northern Lights, led by oil giants Equinor, Shell and TotalEnergies, involves transporting and burying CO2 captured at smokestacks across Europe.

The aim is to prevent the emissions from being released into the atmosphere, and thereby help halt climate change.

"We now injected and stored the very first CO2 safely in the reservoir," Northern Lights' managing director Tim Heijn said in a statement.

"Our ships, facilities and wells are now in operation."

In concrete terms, after the CO2 is captured, it is liquified and transported by ship to the Oygarden terminal near Bergen on Norway's western coast.

It is then transferred into large tanks before being injected through a 110-kilometre (68-mile) pipeline into the seabed, at a depth of around 2.6 kilometres, for permanent storage.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology has been listed as a climate tool by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), especially for reducing the CO2 footprint of industries like cement and steel that are difficult to decarbonise.

The first CO2 injection into the Northern Lights geological reservoir was from Germany's Heidelberg Materials cement plant in Brevik in southeastern Norway.

But CCS technology is complex and costly.

Without financial assistance, it is currently more profitable for industries to purchase "pollution permits" on the European carbon market than to pay for capturing, transporting and storing their CO2.

Northern Lights has so far signed just three commercial contracts in Europe.

One is with a Yara ammonia plant in the Netherlands, another with two of Orsted's biofuel plants in Denmark, and the third with a Stockholm Exergi thermal power plant in Sweden.

Largely financed by the Norwegian state, Northern Lights has an annual CO2 storage capacity of 1.5 million tonnes, which is expected to increase to five million tonnes by the end of the decade.

phy/nzg/po/js

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## China coal power surges even as renewables hit record high

595 words

25 August 2025

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English

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China saw a surge in new coal power in the first half of the year even as the country added record levels of clean energy capacity, according to a report published Monday.

Coal has been a pivotal energy source in China for decades but explosive growth in wind and solar installations in recent years has raised hopes that the country can wean itself off the dirty fossil fuel.

Coal accounts for around half of China's power generation, down from three-quarters in 2016.

Yet the country brought 21 gigawatts (GW) of coal power online in the first six months of this year, the highest first-half total since 2016, the report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and Global Energy Monitor (GEM) said.

China also began or restarted construction on coal projects totalling 46 GW -- equivalent to the total coal power in South Korea -- and launched another 75 GW-worth of proposed new and revived coal power projects.

The growth threatens China's goal to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and risks solidifying coal's role in its power sector, the report said.

The world's second-largest economy is the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases that drive climate change, but it is also a renewable energy powerhouse.

"Coal power development in China... shows no sign of easing, leaving emissions on a high plateau and stranding coal in the system for years to come," said Christine Shearer, research analyst at GEM and co-author of the report.

More coal could come online soon because a "huge pipeline of already permitted (coal) projects remains" from a spike in new permits in 2022 and 2023 when China's electricity grid struggled to adapt to renewables growth, according to Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst at CREA.

"Since then, better grid operation and storage have addressed those issues, while the coal power projects approved at the time are still under construction," he said.

The latest coal boom comes despite China's rapidly expanding renewable power generation now covering the country's electricity demand growth.

China installed 212 GW of solar capacity in the first half of the year, a new record and more than the total solar power installed in the United States as of the end of 2024.

It is on track to install enough clean power -- from solar, wind, nuclear, and hydro -- in 2025 to meet the entire electricity demand of Germany and Britain combined.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged in 2021 to "strictly control" coal power projects and coal consumption growth before "phasing it down" between 2026 and 2030.

Yet only 1 GW of coal power was retired in the first half of 2025, the report said, leaving the country well short of its target to retire 30 GW between 2020 and the end of this year.

"Powerful coal interests" continue to push for projects, said Qi Qin, lead author of the report and China analyst at CREA.

"Even though coal's share of capacity is declining, long-term contracts and broad capacity payments keep many plants running at high output."

This risks new coal projects "crowding out the space renewables need to grow", she said.

China is likely to announce new emissions and energy goals in the coming months when it releases details of its 15th Five-Year Plan for 2026 to 2030.

Xi said in April that the country would announce its 2035 greenhouse gas reduction commitments, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), before **COP30** in November.

sam/mtp

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**Today in History for Aug. 21:**

The Canadian Press

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21 August 2025

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The Canadian Press - Broadcast wire

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English

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Today in History for Aug. 21:

On this date:

In 1245, English scholastic theologian Alexander of Hales died. He is regarded as the founder of the Franciscan school of theology.

In 1609, Galileo Galilei demonstrated his new telescope, capable of magnifying images of objects ninefold, to a group of officials atop the Campanile in Venice.

In 1614, Hungarian countess Elizabeth Bathory died. She had ordered hundreds of young girls killed so she could bathe in their blood, which she believed made her skin silky.

In 1745, Czar Peter III of Russia married Catherine the Great.

In 1808, Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington, defeated the French at Vimiero.

In 1810, Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, one of Napoleon's top generals, was elected crown prince of Sweden and ascended the throne eight years later as Charles XIV. Bernadotte proved a popular monarch and founded the present royal house of Sweden.

In 1859, the first modern oil well was drilled at Titusville, Pa.

In 1860, Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) arrived in Montreal during a tour of British North American colonies.

In 1860, gold was discovered in the creeks running into the Quesnel River in British Columbia, an area later known as Barkerville.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre in Paris. It was recovered two years later in Florence, Italy.

In 1930, Princess Margaret Rose was born to Queen Elizabeth and King George VI. She died Feb. 9, 2002.

In 1940, exiled Communist leader Leon Trotsky died a day after being wounded in an attack by a Stalinist agent at his house in Mexico City. Trotsky had been an influential politician in the early days of the Soviet Union, and was a founding member of the Politburo. He was expelled from the party and deported from the country after a power struggle with Joseph Stalin.

In 1944, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China opened talks in Washington that helped pave the way for the establishment of the United Nations.

In 1951, the United States ordered construction of the first atomic-powered submarine.

In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th American state.

In 1968, the Canadian post office announced the closing of the Post Office Savings Bank after a century of operation.

In 1972, the Canadian Trade Exposition, the largest trade fair ever staged by Canada abroad, was held in the Chinese capital of Beijing.

In 1979, the federal government announced an agreement to provide bilingual air traffic control in Quebec.

In 1980, nine crew members died when a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine caught fire east of Okinawa, Japan.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino was assassinated at the airport, minutes after returning to Manila from exile in the United States. Aquino was a leading opponent of President Ferdinand Marcos and his killing led to the 1986 collapse of the Marcos regime and the election of Aquino's wife, Corazon, as president.

In 1986, more than 1,700 people died when toxic gas erupted from a volcanic lake in the West African nation of Cameroon.

In 1987, Geraldine Kenney-Wallace, a chemist and physicist, was named the first chairwoman of the Science Council of Canada.

In 1987, Canada's youngest liver transplant recipient died in a London, Ont., hospital. Sixteen-month-old Amanda Jane Cathro of Edmonton died after two liver transplants.

In 1990, the United Church of Canada's third General Council voted 302-74 to reaffirm a controversial 1988 statement on homosexuality, which allowed gays and lesbians to be considered for ordination. After three days of debate, about 400 **delegates** voted to stick to the policy which had split Canada's largest Protestant denomination.

In 1996, Mary Two Axe Earley, a native rights activist who pressured the government into changing a section of the Indian Act that discriminated against native women, died at age 84.

In 1996, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld two B.C. Court of Appeal decisions that the native right to catch fish for food and ceremonial purposes did not include the right to sell, unless the practice previously existed.

In 1998, former apartheid ruler P.W. Botha of South Africa was given a one-year suspended jail sentence, after being found guilty of ignoring a subpoena to testify about apartheid atrocities.

In 1999, B.C. Premier Glen Clark resigned over allegations he was improperly involved in a casino licence application.

In 2000, Russian authorities confirmed that 118 men on the stricken submarine "Kursk" were dead. Norwegian divers found the submarine completely flooded. Kursk had been trapped since Aug. 12th at the bottom of the Barents Sea after an accident during naval exercises.

In 2001, Montreal was named the permanent home of the IOC's World Anti-Doping Agency, edging out Lausanne, Switzerland and Vienna, Austria.

In 2003, Canadian troops began their first official patrol of Afghanistan's capital of Kabul.

In 2006, former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's trial began in Baghdad on charges of genocide for a military campaign against ethnic Kurds in 1988. He was found guilty on Nov. 5th and hanged on Dec. 30th.

In 2010, in the Australian federal election, both Labor and the Liberal Party-led opposition each received 72 seats. Four of the six independents later sided with the Labor Party for the country's first minority government since the Second World War.

In 2011, a tornado with 280 km/h winds raged through the Lake Huron community of Goderich, Ont., dubbed Canada's prettiest town. Many downtown businesses, century-old buildings and several churches were destroyed. One person was killed and at least 37 people were injured.

In 2011, Libyan rebels raced into Tripoli and met little resistance as Moammar Gadhafi's defenders melted away and his 42-year rule rapidly crumbled. The euphoric fighters celebrated with residents of the capital in Green Square, the symbolic heart of the regime.

In 2013, a poison gas attack by the Syrian government on the rebel-held suburbs of Damascus killed 1,400 civilians, including 400 children. The U.S. pressed for military strikes in response but marathon negotiations between U.S. and Russian diplomats produced an agreement on securing and destroying Syria's chemical weapons stockpile by the mid-2014.

In 2017, at 10:16 a.m. PT, the first total solar eclipse to sweep coast-to-coast across the U.S. in 99 years began in Oregon, with the path of totality travelling diagonally across 14 states to South Carolina. In Canada, Victoria got the best view of the rare celestial event, with 90 per cent coverage, Vancouver 86 per cent, Calgary 77 per cent and Toronto 70 per cent. The rest of North America was treated to a partial eclipse, as were Central American and the top of South America.

In 2017, a Los Angeles jury ordered Johnson & Johnson to pay US\$417 million to a woman who claimed in a lawsuit that the talc in its iconic baby powder causes ovarian cancer when applied regularly for feminine hygiene. It marked the largest sum awarded in a series of talcum powder lawsuit verdicts against the company, which announced it would appeal.

In 2017, Globe and Mail publisher Phillip Crawley said the national newspaper planned to halt its daily print edition for Atlantic Canada on Nov. 30.

In 2017, reversing his past calls for a speedy exit, President Donald Trump recommitted the United States to the 16-year-old war in Afghanistan, declaring U.S. troops must "fight to win." He pointedly declined to disclose how many more troops would be dispatched to wage America's longest war.

In 2018, the Manitoba government asked the RCMP to investigate allegations that workers on northern hydro developments decades earlier had sexually abused Indigenous women. The allegations were contained in a report from the province's arm's-length Clean Environment Commission.

In 2018, the British Columbia Court of Appeal ordered a new trial for the former leader of a religious sect who was acquitted of taking a 15-year-old girl across the U.S. border for a sexual purpose. The Crown had appealed the verdict in the case of James Oler, the former leader of a Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints community in Bountiful, B.C., which practices polygamy.

In 2018, an Air Canada-led consortium reached a \$450-million deal to acquire the Aeroplan loyalty program from Aimia Inc. The group, which included TD Bank, CIBC and Visa Canada, also agreed to assume the approximately \$1.9-billion liability associated with Aeroplan miles customers had accumulated.

In 2018, the Trump administration moved to dismantle a big piece of U.S. President Barack Obama's environmental legacy, proposing to scale back restrictions on **climate**-changing emissions from coal-fired power plants even as it acknowledged it could cause more premature death and illness.

In 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court to eight criminal charges including tax evasion and unlawful campaign contributions related to payments made to women who claim to have had affairs with Trump. The court appearance came on the same day that Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign manager, was found guilty on eight of 18 counts of tax and bank fraud.

In 2020, Canada took a major step toward producing personal protective equipment, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced an agreement with 3M. The company will produce up to 100-million medical-grade N95 masks a year at its plant Brockville, Ont.

In 2020, "Full House" actor Lori Loughlin was sent to prison for two months after a judge accepted her plea deal for paying half a million dollars to cheat the college admissions process for her two daughters. Loughlin's husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, was sentenced earlier to five months behind bars.

In 2023, two Alberta lawyers were barred from practising in Manitoba and ordered to pay \$5,000. The decision from the Law Society of Manitoba came after complaints that John Carpay and Randal Jay Cameron hired a private investigator to surveil a judge who was hearing a case involving COVID-19 public health orders. Both men represented several churches that attempted in 2021 to overturn Manitoba public health orders that prevented in-person religious services during the height of the pandemic.

In 2024, the largest study of Canada's catastrophic 2023 wildfire season said it is "inescapable" that the record burn was caused by extreme heat and parching drought. The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, warned that the extreme temperatures seen that season were already equivalent to some **climate** projections for 2050.

In 2024, the man who created Newfoundland and Labrador's famed Screech-in ceremony died at age 85. Myrle Vokey's lively performances began in 1974 as he was travelling the province as a director and speaker with the provincial teachers association. He used it as a way to instil pride in Newfoundland's unique dialect, music and humour.

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## Brazil records 65 percent drop in Amazon area burned by fire

291 words

20 August 2025

20:04

Agence France Presse

AFPR

English

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The area of Amazon rainforest lost to fires in Brazil in July fell 65 percent compared to a year ago, the MapBiomas monitoring platform said Wednesday, boosting the government as it prepares to host the **UN climate** change conference.

Satellite images showed that 143,000 hectares (353,360 acres) of the world's biggest tropical forest were razed by fires last month, down dramatically from the same month last year, when a historic drought whipped up record numbers of fires.

The figure -- the smallest since MapBiomas began monthly satellite mapping of fire damage in 2019 -- comes three months before President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva hosts the **COP30** UN conference in the Amazon city of Belem.

Across Brazil, 748,000 hectares of land were consumed by fire in July, down 40 percent on last year.

Between January and July, a total of 2.45 million hectares burned across Brazil, down 59 percent over the same period in 2024.

The Cerrado, a vast region of tropical savannah in central Brazil, suffered the worst destruction in July, with 571,000 hectares going up in flames, down 16 percent in a year.

Felipe Martenexen, a researcher at the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, attributed the improvements to a "more intense and sustained rainy season" this year.

He added that the environmental and economic damage wrought by the 2024 fires and increased surveillance by the authorities of land clearance may also have "led farmers and residents to be more careful."

While drought abetted the spread of fires last year, many of the blazes were started illegally by people clearing land for agriculture.

Lula has pledged to end Amazon deforestation by 2030.

ll/lg/cb/acb

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**Today in History for Aug. 18:**

The Canadian Press

1,840 words

18 August 2025

03:15

The Canadian Press - Broadcast wire

BNW

English

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Today in History for Aug. 18:

On this date:

In 1227, Mongol emperor Genghis Khan died. He became one of the most significant and successful military leaders in history. He united the Mongol tribes and founded the Mongol Empire (1206-1368), the largest contiguous empire in world history. He was reputed to have killed 20 million people.

In 1587, in Roanoke, N.C., Virginia Dare became the first child born of European parents in the New World.

In 1670, Jean Talon arrived at Quebec for his second term as France's Intendant of Justice, Police and Finance in the new colony. Talon conducted the first census in Canada, in the winter of 1665-66. During his tenure he instituted the "filles du roi" program, bringing single women to Canada to marry the single men here. Along with increasing the population, he diversified the colony's economy, established factories, a shipyard, a brewery and a lumber trade.

In 1688, Puritan clergyman John Bunyan preached his last sermon before dying 13 days later. In 1678 he had authored "Pilgrim's Progress," an allegory describing the difficulties encountered in the Christian life while journeying through this world.

In 1850, French novelist Honore de Balzac died.

In 1869, William Hamilton was granted the first Canadian patent. It was for a fluid meter that measured gasses and liquids.

In 1914, a Peruvian destroyer became the first warship to pass through the newly opened Panama Canal.

In 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed American neutrality in the First World War - the same day Germany declared war on Russia.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed the right of all American women to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

In 1932, Scottish aviator Jim Mollison made the first westbound trans-Atlantic solo flight, from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, N.B.

In 1938, Prime Minister Mackenzie King and U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt formally opened the Thousand Islands International Bridge. It spans the St. Lawrence River between Collins Landing, N.Y., and Ivy Lea, Ont.

In 1942, General Bernard Montgomery was named commander of the British Eighth Army in Egypt. Under Montgomery, the Allied armies started a massive offensive from El Alamein, which pushed the Germans out of North Africa during the Second World War.

In 1944, a three-day battle began in which Major David Currie of the South Alberta Reconnaissance Regiment won the Victoria Cross. The Saskatchewan native led a successful effort to stop German troops from breaking through Canadian lines at St-Lambert-sur-Dives, France. Currie later served for 17 years as the House of Commons' sergeant at arms. He died in 1986.

In 1954, Canada and the United States agreed to jointly build the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1956, the Alexander Graham Bell Museum was dedicated at Baddeck, N.S.



In 1960, the first commercially-produced oral contraceptive, "Enovid 10," was launched.

In 1964, South Africa was banned from the Olympic Games because of its apartheid policies. It returned to competition in 1992.

In 1968, more than 100 women and children were killed when a landslide swept two sightseeing buses into a river on Japan's Honshu Island.

In 1970, the top architectural award at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan, was given to the Canadian pavilion, designed by Arthur Erickson of Vancouver.

In 1981, the Kent royal commission on Canada's newspaper industry recommended that action be taken to curb concentrated ownership of Canadian newspapers. The commission said media giants should be forced to divest themselves of holdings in some regions. The Trudeau government rejected the suggestion.

In 1991, hardline Soviet communists launched a coup aimed at toppling President Mikhail Gorbachev. Gorbachev and members of his family were effectively imprisoned until the coup collapsed three days later in the face of a popular uprising led by Boris Yeltsin. The coup attempt led to the end of the Soviet Union four months later.

In 1992, director John Sturges died of emphysema at age 82. He specialized in making action films such as "The Magnificent Seven," "The Great Escape," and "Bad Day at Black Rock."

In 1997, war criminal Konrad Kalejs was deported from Canada to Australia after an immigration adjudicator ruled he had committed crimes against humanity during the Second World War.

In 1998, Winnipeg businessman Izzy Asper announced a \$950-million deal to buy 11 television stations owned by WIC Western International Communications Ltd., making his CanWest Global Communications Canada's biggest private broadcaster by revenue.

In 2003, the death toll from a heat wave in France reached 10,000. (Nearly 15,000 eventually perished.)

In 2006, the Quebec government was ordered to give more than \$13 million to nearly 45,000 women who had to pay for abortions. Justice Nicole Benard of Quebec Superior Court said the government misinterpreted its own medicare law by paying only a portion of the cost of abortions performed in certain women's health centres and private clinics.

In 2008, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf resigned nine years after seizing power in a coup, amid impeachment charges based on claims he violated the constitution.

In 2008, Oak Bay, a Victoria, B.C. suburb, became the first municipality in Canada to legalize low-speed electric cars.

In 2009, former president Kim Dae-jung, South Korea's most fervent champion of peace and democracy, died in Seoul at age 85. He won the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to foster reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula.

In 2010, Indian Affairs Minister John Duncan issued a government apology to Inuit families who were uprooted from their homeland in northern Quebec and moved to desolate spots in the High Arctic during the 1950s.

In 2011, the Canadian air wing in Kandahar ended formal operations after 32 months in theatre. It had continued to operate following the departure of battle group soldiers in July.

In 2016, Jamaica's Usain Bolt won a record third consecutive gold medal in the 200-metre sprint. Canada's Andre De Grasse won the silver medal, becoming the first Canadian to win two individual track medals in the same Olympics since Alex Wilson in 1932.

In 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump accepted Steve Bannon's resignation, ending a turbulent seven months for his chief strategist. The former leader of conservative Breitbart News was the man behind many of Trump's most controversial efforts, including the travel ban on mainly Muslim countries and the decision to pull out of the Paris **climate** agreement.

In 2018, the career of one of Quebec's most famous professional wrestling families came to an end when Jacques Rougeau, 58, wrestled with his three sons for the first and last time at Stade IGA in Montreal. The Rougeau family was involved in wrestling dating back to the 1940s but Rougeau said his sons didn't want to carry on with the family business.

In 2018, former United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan died at the age of 80 after a short illness. The Ghanaian diplomat was remembered by Canadian politicians as a friend of Canada and tireless advocate for peace around the world. Annan and the UN were co-recipients of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2018, former cricket star and longtime politician Imran Khan was sworn in as Pakistan's prime minister despite protests by opposition parties, which accused the security services of intervening on his behalf in July's elections.

In 2020, everyone in attendance wore a mask and the chairs were spaced well apart in Rideau Hall as Chrystia Freeland was sworn in as Canada's first female finance minister. Freeland removed her mask as she took the oath, then replaced it before bumping elbows with the prime minister and the governor general. The special precautions were put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In 2020, Dale Hawerchuk, who became the face of the Winnipeg Jets en route to the Hockey Hall of Fame, died at the age of 57.

In 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the COVID-19 pandemic called for a reset of the government's agenda, and he asked Governor General Julie Payette to prorogue Parliament until late September.

In 2020, Joe Gosnell, a renowned treaty negotiator, politician and leader of B.C.'s Nisga'a Nation, died at the age of 85 following a long battle with cancer. A hereditary Nisga'a chieftain of the Eagle Clan, Gosnell was president of the nation when the landmark Nisga'a Final Agreement was completed in 2000. The treaty gave the Nisga'a control over their land, including forestry and fishing rights, and was the first modern-day treaty signed in B.C. since the 1800s.

In 2020, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced his resignation on state television. It came hours after he was detained by mutinous soldiers firing shots outside his home. Soldiers seized weapons in the garrison town of Kati and advanced on the capital. Mali had seen more than two months of regular demonstrations in which anti-government protesters demanded that Keita step down.

In 2020, the Democratic Party formally made Joe Biden its presidential nominee. **Delegates** from each state took a roll call vote during the second night of the virtual Democratic National Convention.

In 2021, Nova Scotia's Progressive Conservatives scored an upset victory in the provincial election. Liberal Leader Iain Rankin expressed disappointment at the outcome, saying he didn't expect it. Rankin said in the end, voters believed in the Tory line that they can fix health care. Premier-designate Tim Houston said the Tories' big win shows the province is ready for change. He credited his party's plan to tackle the province's struggling health-care system for the win.

In 2021, the military officer who led Canada's COVID-19 vaccine distribution campaign was charged with one count of sexual assault. Maj.-Gen. Dany Fortin presented himself to police in Gatineau, Que., after a warrant for his arrest was issued earlier in the week. Fortin's lawyers said the only information they received was that the charge related to an alleged incident that happened in 1988. Fortin was abruptly removed from his post at the Public Health Agency of Canada in May.

In 2023, British Columbia Premier David Eby declared a provincewide state of emergency in response to "unprecedented" wildfires that forced the evacuation of thousands of people in the Interior.

In 2024, internationally acclaimed French actor Alain Delon died at the age of 88. He is known for his roles embodying both the bad guy and the policeman. Fans say he was able to combine toughness with an appealing, vulnerable quality that made him one of France's memorable leading men. Delon first drew acclaim in 1960 with "Plein Soleil," directed by René Clément, in which he played a murderer trying to take on the identity of his victims. In 2019, his career was honoured at the Cannes Film Festival.

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## No end in sight to plastic pollution crisis as treaty negotiations in Geneva fail

Jennifer McDermott  
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GENEVA (AP) — Negotiations to reach a major treaty to end growing plastic pollution around the world fell apart on Friday, with **delegates** in Switzerland adjourning with no immediate plans to resume.

The consequence of the failed talks is devastating, as it leaves no clear path for nations to collectively address the mountains of plastic that are filling landfills, clogging oceans and showing up in chunks on beaches and other public places.

“Consensus is dead,” Bjorn Beeler, international coordinator for the International Pollutants Elimination Network, upon adjournment.

Every year, the world makes more than 400 million tons of new plastic, and [that could grow](#) by about 70% by 2040 without policy changes. About 100 countries want to limit production. Many have said it’s also essential to address toxic chemicals used to make plastics.

The final decision, or lack thereof, underscored the influence of the United States and other oil-producing countries such as Saudi Arabia, which opposed any limit on the productions of plastics, made mostly from fuels like oil and gas.

Nations had worked for [11 days at the United Nations office in Geneva](#). But they were deadlocked over whether the treaty should reduce exponential growth of plastic production and put global, legally binding controls on toxic chemicals used to make plastics.

Environmentalists, waste pickers and Indigenous leaders and many business executives traveled to the talks to make their voices heard. Indigenous leaders sought a treaty that recognizes their rights and knowledge.

The Youth Plastic Action Network was the only organization that spoke at the closing meeting Friday. Comments from observers were cut off at the request of the U.S. and Kuwait after 24 hours of meetings and negotiating.

After the adjournment, some **delegates** tried to put a good face on the negotiations and expressed hope for future talks. **Delegates** did agree they would meet again at some point in the future.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said despite challenges, despite the disappointment, “we have to accept that significant progress was made.”

This process won’t stop, she said, but it’s too soon to say how long it will take to get a treaty now.

### A repeat of last year's failure

The negotiations were supposed to be the last round and produce the first legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, including in the oceans. But just like at the meeting [in South Korea last year](#), the talks ended with no agreement.

Luis Vayas Valdivieso, the chair of the negotiating committee, wrote and presented two drafts of treaty text in Geneva based on the views expressed by the nations. The representatives from 184 countries did not agree to use either one as the basis for their negotiations.

Valdivieso said Friday morning as the **delegates** reconvened in the assembly hall that no further action was being proposed at this stage on the latest draft.

After a three-hour meeting, he banged a gavel made of recycled plastic bottle tops from a Nairobi landfill, one of many symbols of the plastic problem that were visible during the talks.

## A 'deeply disappointing' outcome

European Commissioner Jessika Roswall said the European Union and its member states had higher expectations for this meeting and while the draft falls short on their demands, it's a good basis for another negotiating session.

"The Earth is not ours only. We are stewards for those who come after us. Let us fulfill that duty," she said.

Representatives of Norway, Australia, Tuvalu and others nations said they were "deeply disappointed" to be leaving Geneva without a treaty. Madagascar's representative said the world is "expecting action, not reports from us."

China's delegation said the fight against plastic pollution is a long marathon and that this temporary setback is a new starting point to forge consensus.

For their part, representatives from plastics industry, heavily criticized in recent years, called for nations to compromise more to get a deal. The Global Partners for Plastics Circularity said governments must move past entrenched positions.

For any proposal to make it into the treaty, every nation must agree. India, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Vietnam and others have said that consensus is vital to an effective treaty. Some countries want to change the process so decisions may be made by a vote if necessary.

Graham Forbes, head of the Greenpeace delegation in Geneva, urged **delegates** in that direction.

"We are going in circles. We cannot continue to do the same thing and expect a different result," he said as Friday's meeting ended.

## Red lines that were not surmountable

The biggest issue of the talks has been whether the treaty should impose caps on producing new plastic or focus instead on things like better design, recycling and reuse.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and [the U.S. opposed cutting plastic production](#) or banning chemical additives in the treaty. The U.S. supported provisions to improve waste collection and management, improve product design and drive recycling, reuse and other efforts to cut the plastic dumped into the environment.

Saudi Arabia said both drafts lacked balance, and Saudi and Kuwaiti negotiators said the latest proposal gave more weight to the views of other nations.

That draft, released early Friday, did not include a limit on plastic production, but recognized that current levels of production and consumption are "unsustainable" and global action is needed. New language had been added to say these levels exceeded current waste management capacities and are projected to increase further, "thereby necessitating a coordinated global response to halt and reverse such trends."

The objective of the treaty was revamped to state that the accord would be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics. It talked about reducing plastic products containing "a chemical or chemicals of concern to human health or the environment," as well as reducing of single-use or short-lived plastic products.

It was a much better, more ambitious text, though not perfect. Each country came to Geneva with a lot of "red lines," said Magnus Heunicke, the Danish environment minister. Denmark holds the rotating presidency of the Council of Europe.

"To be very clear, a compromise means that we have to bend our red lines," he said.

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**Today in History for Aug. 28:**

The Canadian Press

1,914 words

15 August 2025

11:02

The Canadian Press - Broadcast wire

BNW

English

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Today in History for Aug. 28:

On this date:

In 430, St. Augustine of Hippo, the great early Latin Church father and one of the outstanding theological figures of the ages, died at age 76. It was St. Augustine who wrote: "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in thee." His greatest work was "City of God."

In 1619, Ferdinand II was crowned Holy Roman Emperor.

In 1749, German author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was born.

In 1789, Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons, was discovered. Scientists think the moon may have underground fluids, making it one of the top planets in the solar system where extraterrestrial life might exist.

In 1828, Count Leo Tolstoy, one of the world's great classical writers, was born at Yasnaya Polyana, in Russia. Tolstoy did not distinguish himself in university, but began making his mark as a writer in 1854 with his brilliant sketches of the Crimean War. After his return from the war, Tolstoy freed the serfs at his estate and became a social reformer. His masterpieces include "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina."

In 1833, an act abolishing slavery throughout the British Colonies received royal assent. It came into force on Aug. 1, 1834. It was the result of a campaign by abolitionists internationally, and in the British Parliament by an alliance of Evangelical Anglicans and Quakers led by MP William Wilberforce.

In 1846, the British Possessions Act gave the provinces power to enact their own tariff and other agreements. The act, which was passed in London, allowed colonial legislatures to reduce or repeal imperial customs duties they were subject to, and allowed them to have free trade.

In 1861, William Lyon Mackenzie, a central figure of his time, Toronto's first mayor and leader in the Upper Canada rebellion of 1837, died in 1861. He was 66. After three years in the Upper Canada legislature, he was expelled for breach of privilege and not allowed to resume his seat, although his constituents re-elected him five times. In December 1837, he led about 750 rural supporters in an uprising that took the form of two skirmishes near Toronto. When they were put down, he fled to the United States but returned under amnesty in 1849. He was re-elected in 1851, but retired from politics in 1858.

In 1872, the world's first "Wild West Show" was staged at Niagara Falls, Ont. The main attraction was American frontiersman James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickock who appeared in "Buffalo Bill's" show until 1874. Hickock's reputation as a marksman made him a celebrity in the travelling show.

In 1904, the first jail sentence for speeding was handed down in Newport, R.I. -- five days -- for driving 32 km/h.

In 1907, United Parcel Service had its beginnings as the American Messenger Company of Seattle.

In 1913, author Robertson Davies was born at Thamesville, Ont. He died Dec. 2, 1995.

In 1914, British and German forces fought the first major naval battle of the First World War, the Battle of Heligoland Bight.

In 1916, Italy declared war on Germany during the First World War.

In 1919, Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, the British electrical engineer who invented the CAT (computerized axial tomography) scanner, was born. The scanner, first used in a London hospital in 1972, revolutionized health

care by producing photographs 100 times more detailed than X-rays. Hounsfield's work earned him a share of the 1979 Nobel Prize in medicine. He died Aug. 12, 2004.

In 1922, radio station WEAJ in New York City aired the first radio commercial -- a 10-minute pitch for a new co-op apartment house.

In 1926, the Soviet ship "Buryvestnik" struck a pier at Kronstadt, USSR, killing 300 people.

In 1947, legendary bullfighter Manolete died after being gored during a fight in Linares, Spain. He was 30.

In 1957, three armed men stole \$5,400 in American funds from a CNR passenger train on a run from Windsor, Ont., to Toronto. It was Canada's first train robbery since 1928.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech to almost 250,000 demonstrators in Washington in front of the Lincoln Memorial. "I have a dream that one day ... the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together," the civil rights leader said. King was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent battle against discrimination and poverty. He was assassinated in Memphis in April 1968.

In 1968, "Les Belles-Soeurs," by playwright Michel Tremblay, premiered in Quebec City. It was one of the first artistic uses of the street language called "jouis."

In 1982, "Today" magazine, distributed in 18 Canadian newspapers with a circulation of three million, published its last issue.

In 1983, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin announced his resignation.

In 1985, a planned mass march on Pollsmoor Prison in South Africa to demand the release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela was crushed by police who used whips, tear gas and shotguns to disperse the demonstrators. At least six people were killed and dozens were injured. Mandela was finally released on Feb. 11, 1990.

In 1988, the worst crash during an air show took place at the U.S. airbase in Ramstein, then in West Germany. Three Italian air force jets collided above a crowd of 300,000, killing 70 people and injuring 500. Opposition to military air shows mushroomed after the tragedy and NATO allies suspended future air shows as they tried to figure out how to make them safer.

In 1990, during the Persian Gulf crisis, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ordered the release of all foreign women and children being detained in Iraq and Kuwait.

In 1994, the Commonwealth Games came to a close in Victoria, with Canada placing second after Australia with 128 medals.

In 1996, CBC Radio's "Morningside" host Peter Gzowski announced his retirement.

In 1996, the divorce of Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, became final.

In 1999, the crew of the Russian space station Mir headed back to Earth, leaving the station unmanned in preparation for its abandonment in 2000.

In 2003, North Korea announced its plans to conduct a nuclear test to prove its status as the world's newest nuclear power.

In 2007, Steven Truscott, the youngest Canadian to ever face a death sentence nearly half a century ago, was acquitted by the Ontario Court of Appeal of the 1959 rape and murder of 12-year-old Lynne Harper. The court ruled Truscott was a victim of a "miscarriage of justice."

In 2008, Major League Baseball instituted instant replay.

In 2009, the Los Angeles County coroner officially declared Michael Jackson's death a homicide. Forensic tests determined the cause of death was "acute propofol intoxication." His personal doctor, Conrad Murray, was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to four years in prison.

In 2013, U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan was sentenced to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, which killed 13 people and wounded more than 30.

In 2018, a 16-year-old youth was charged in a southern Alberta highway shooting that left a German tourist with a serious brain injury. RCMP said the teen from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation was facing 14 charges, including attempted murder and possession of a prohibited firearm.

In 2018, an independent study ordered by Puerto Rico found Hurricane Maria killed nearly 3,000 people in the U.S. territory in the desperate, sweltering months after the storm - with the elderly and impoverished most affected.

In 2019, the Queen approved British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's request to suspend Parliament from September 9-October 14. The suspension took many vacationing lawmakers by surprise giving M-PPs even less time to block a so-called no-deal Brexit. The speaker of the House of Commons, who was not told in advance of Johnson's plan, called it an "offence against the democratic process." The U-K is scheduled to leave the European Union October 31.

In 2019, Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg arrived in New York City following a trans-Atlantic trip on a sailboat to attend a global warming conference. The 16-year-old and her crew were escorted into a lower Manhattan marina - concluding a two-week crossing from Plymouth, England. She refused to fly because of the carbon emissions involved in jet travel. The teenager has led protests against climate change in Sweden that inspired student strikes in about 100 cities worldwide. She was to speak at a **United Nations climate summit** in September.

In 2020, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced he would step down because a chronic health problem he has had since he was a teenager has resurfaced. Abe said he was on a new treatment for ulcerative colitis that requires IV injections and provides no guarantee of a cure. Abe became Japan's youngest prime minister in 2006 at the age of 52, and this year became Japan's longest-serving prime minister by consecutive days in office.

In 2020, the co-creator of the famous Scooby-Doo cartoon series died at the age of 87. Joe Ruby came up with the idea with his TV writing partner Ken Spears in 1969.

In 2020, the federal government once again extended travel restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19. Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said existing restrictions on international travel to Canada would be extended one more month to Sept. 30.

In 2020, civil rights advocates gathered with the families of victims of police brutality and vigilante violence during a commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. This year's March on Washington was first planned after the killing of George Floyd. But the crowds were also there for Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake, and many others — demanding change and calling for real solutions to police shootings of Black Americans.

In 2020, friends, fans and colleagues lamented the death of actor Chadwick Boseman, who died at the age of 43 after a four-year battle with colon-cancer. Before he was a Marvel superstar, Boseman wowed audiences with his portrayals of baseball icon Jackie Robinson in "42" and James Brown in the biopic "Get On Up." His "Wakanda Forever" salute reverberated around the world after the release of "Black Panther" two years ago.

In 2021, the Pentagon says the military had begun its final withdrawal from Afghanistan amid a heightened threat of terrorist attacks. An official said the number of U.S. troops remaining had dropped to 4,000 or fewer, three days before President Joe Biden's deadline for getting out and ending the longest war in American history.

In 2022, six people died in a single-vehicle crash in Barrie, Ont. Police said four men and two women in their 20s were found dead.

In 2024, convicted Winnipeg serial killer Jeremy Skibicki was handed four concurrent life sentences for the first-degree murders of four Indigenous women. He must serve 25 years before he's eligible for parole. The judge said he was bound by law to impose the automatic sentence, adding the women's families deserve more than what can be accomplished in a courtroom. A sentencing hearing earlier heard victim impact statements from relatives and supporters.

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## Plastic pollution treaty talks in Geneva end without an agreement

Jennifer McDermott  
The Associated Press  
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CPR  
English  
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GENEVA (AP) — Negotiators working on a treaty to address the global crisis of plastic pollution won't reach an agreement in Geneva Friday.

Nations were [meeting for an 11th day at the United Nations office in Geneva](#) to try to complete a landmark treaty to end the plastic pollution crisis. They remain deadlocked over whether the treaty should reduce exponential growth of plastic production and put global, legally binding controls on toxic chemicals used to make plastics.

The negotiations at the U.N. hub were supposed to be the last round and produce the first legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, including in the oceans. But just like at the meeting [in South Korea last year](#), they're leaving without a treaty.

Luis Vayas Valdivieso, the chair of the negotiating committee, wrote and presented two drafts of treaty text in Geneva based on the views expressed by the nations. The representatives from 184 countries did not agree to use either one as the basis for their negotiations.

Valdivieso said Friday morning as the **delegates** reconvened in the assembly hall that no further action is being proposed at this stage on the latest draft.

After a three-hour meeting, he banged a gavel made of recycled plastic bottle tops from a Nairobi landfill. He said the session was adjourned, to be resumed at a later date.

A 'deeply disappointing' outcome

Representatives of Norway, Australia, Tuvalu and others nations said they were deeply disappointed to be leaving Geneva without a treaty. Madagascar said the world is "expecting action, not reports from us."

European Commissioner Jessika Roswall said the European Union and its member states had higher expectations for this meeting and while the draft falls short on their demands, it's a good basis for another negotiating session.

"The Earth is not ours only. We are stewards for those who come after us. Let us fulfill that duty," she said.

China's delegation said the fight against plastic pollution is a long marathon and that this temporary setback is a new starting point to forge consensus. It urged nations to work together to offer future generations a blue planet without plastic pollution.

Lots of red lines

The biggest issue of the talks has been whether the treaty should impose caps on producing new plastic or focus instead on things like better design, recycling and reuse. Powerful oil- and gas-producing nations and the plastics industry oppose production limits. They want a treaty focused on better waste management and reuse.

Saudi Arabia said both drafts lacked balance, and Saudi and Kuwaiti negotiators said the latest proposal takes other states' views more into account. It addressed plastic production, which they consider outside the scope of the treaty.

That draft, released early Friday, did not include a limit on plastic production, but recognized that current levels of production and consumption are "unsustainable" and global action is needed. New language had been added to say these levels exceed current waste management capacities and are projected to increase further, "thereby necessitating a coordinated global response to halt and reverse such trends."



The objective of the treaty was revamped to state that the accord would be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics. It talked about reducing plastic products containing “a chemical or chemicals of concern to human health or the environment,” as well as reducing of single-use or short-lived plastic products.

It was a much better, more ambitious text, though not perfect. But each country came to Geneva with a lot of “red lines,” said Magnus Heunicke, the Danish environment minister. Denmark holds the rotating presidency of the Council of Europe.

“To be very clear, a compromise means that we have to bend our red lines,” he said.

For its part, Iran said it’s a disappointing moment and faulted “nontransparent and non-inclusive processes on unrealistic elements,” particularly chemicals.

No consensus

For any proposal to make it into the treaty, every nation must agree. India, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Vietnam and others have said that consensus is vital to an effective treaty. Some countries want to change the process so decisions may be made by a vote if necessary.

Graham Forbes, head of the Greenpeace delegation in Geneva, urged **delegates** in that direction.

“We are going in circles. We cannot continue to do the same thing and expect a different result,” he said as Friday’s meeting was ending.

[Thursday was the last scheduled day of negotiations](#), but work on the revised draft continued into Friday.

Every year, the world makes more than 400 million tons of new plastic, and [that could grow](#) by about 70% by 2040 without policy changes. About 100 countries want to limit production. Many have said it’s also essential to address toxic chemicals used to make plastics.

Science shows what it will take to end pollution and protect human health, said Bethanie Carney Almroth, an ecotoxicology professor at Sweden’s University of Gothenburg who coleads the Scientists’ Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty. The science supports addressing the full lifecycle of plastics, beginning with extraction and production, and restricting some chemicals to ensure plastics are safer and more sustainable, she added.

“The science has not changed,” she said. “It cannot be down negotiated.”

Environmentalists, waste pickers and Indigenous leaders and many business executives traveled to the talks to make their voices heard. [Some used creative tactics](#), but are leaving disappointed. Indigenous leaders sought a treaty that recognizes their rights and knowledge.

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## Negotiators won't reach an agreement in Geneva on a plastic pollution treaty

Jennifer McDermott  
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GENEVA (AP) — Negotiators working on a treaty to address the global crisis of plastic pollution won't reach an agreement in Geneva Friday.

Nations were [meeting for an 11th day at the United Nations office in Geneva](#) to try to complete a landmark treaty to end the plastic pollution crisis. They remain deadlocked over whether the treaty should reduce exponential growth of plastic production and put global, legally binding controls on toxic chemicals used to make plastics.

The negotiations at the U.N. hub were supposed to be the last round and produce the first legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, including in the oceans. But just like at the meeting [in South Korea last year](#), they're leaving without a treaty.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

GENEVA (AP) — The latest draft of a treaty to end [plastic pollution](#) would not put a limit on producing plastics, but recognizes that current levels of production and consumption are “unsustainable” and global action is needed.

[Nations are meeting at the United Nations office in Geneva](#) to try to complete a landmark treaty to end the plastic pollution crisis. The draft, released early Friday, contains new language to say these levels exceed current waste management capacities and are projected to increase further, “thereby necessitating a coordinated global response to halt and reverse such trends.”

This falls short of the limit that many countries sought, but could pave the way for one in the future. The objective of the treaty was also revamped to state that the accord would be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics.

Panama helped lead an effort to include plastic production in the treaty. Panama **Climate** Envoy Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez said it's not the treaty they want, but it “can be the springboard to get there.”

The biggest issue of [the talks](#) has been whether the treaty should impose caps on producing new plastic or focus instead on things like better design, recycling and reuse. Powerful oil- and gas-producing nations and the plastics industry oppose production limits. They want a treaty focused on better waste management and reuse.

[Thursday was the last scheduled day of negotiations](#), but work on the revised draft continues into Friday.

Every year, the world makes more than 400 million tons of new plastic, and [that could grow](#) by about 70% by 2040 without policy changes. About 100 countries want to limit production. Many have said it's also essential to address toxic chemicals used to make plastics.

[While an earlier draft contained no mention of chemicals](#), this version could lead to the reduction of plastic products containing “a chemical or chemicals of concern to human health or the environment,” as well as the reduction of single-use or short-lived plastic products. Negotiators are still deciding whether the measures in that article would be voluntary or binding.

If adopted, parties would have to take measures to ensure the better management of plastic waste. They could be required to take steps to improve the design of plastic products to be recycled and reused. They are deciding whether the section on product design would be voluntary or binding.

**Delegates** will discuss the revised version when they reconvene later Friday. The earlier version was widely panned. Many countries said it was not ambitious enough. Some petrostates said it didn't have the scope they wanted to set the parameters of the treaty or precise definitions.

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