

Dentons Flashpoint

Daily Global Situation Report

August 2, 2021

Global Situation Update: August 2, 2021

KEY TAKEAWAYS

A Belarusian Olympic athlete seeks asylum in Poland's embassy in Tokyo.

Wildfires rage in Turkey for fifth day.

The UK and Cambodia join Israel in plan to administer booster shots for COVID-19.

Note: This report is based on sources and information deemed to be true and reliable, but Dentons makes no representations to same.

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WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

Today, the political landscape in Tunisia remains highly unstable as Rached Ghannouchi, the country's powerful parliament speaker and head of the Islamist party Ennahda, was hospitalized and then released over the weekend. As head of the political opposition, he played a key role in denouncing a freeze of parliament and dismissal of the prime minister by President Kais Saied this week.

Ghannouchi, 80, also faces pressure within his own Ennahda party, the largest in Tunisia, over his handling of this crisis. The Biden Administration called Tunisian President Saied over the weekend and asked for a swift return to the democratic path.



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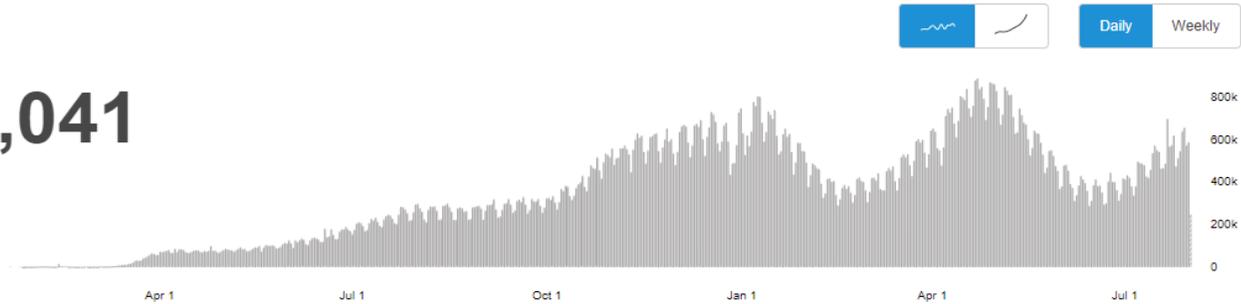
Global

Globally, confirmed coronavirus cases topped 198.0 million with 4.2 million deaths; more than 3.8 billion vaccine doses have been administered.

Global Situation

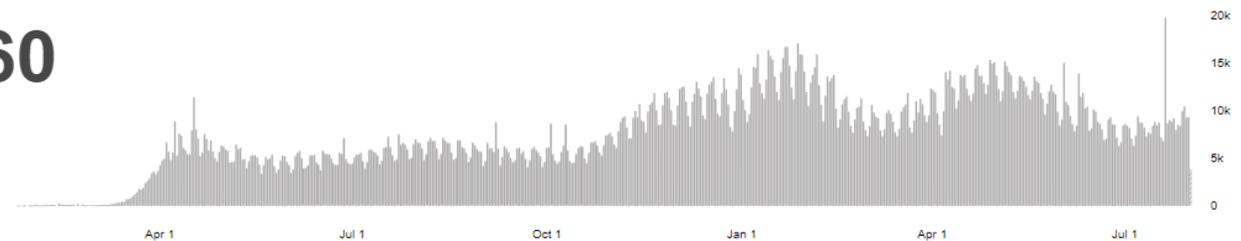
198,022,041

confirmed cases



4,223,460

deaths



Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day or week.

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Global

Eighteen people, including one athlete staying at the Olympic village, tested positive for the coronavirus, bringing the total Games-linked number since July 1 to 259, Tokyo 2020 organizers said.

- According to OECD data, **house prices** rose in almost every major economy during the coronavirus pandemic, reviving economists' concerns over potential threats to financial stability. Historically low interest rates, savings accumulated during lockdowns and a desire for more space as people work from home are all fueling the trend.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Pfizer Inc and Moderna Inc have raised the prices of their COVID-19 vaccines in their latest European Union supply contracts.

- **Cambodia** will begin offering a **booster shot** against COVID-19, switching between the AstraZeneca and Chinese vaccines.
- Per media reports, **Britain** will offer **booster vaccines** starting early next month with up to 2,000 pharmacies set to deliver the program.
- **India's** drug regulator said that **Johnson & Johnson** withdrew its proposal seeking accelerated approval of its COVID-19 vaccine.
- The first contingent of COVID-19 vaccines donated by **Britain** have been sent to **Guyana and Belize**.
- **Venezuela** will receive 6.2 million doses of coronavirus vaccines through the COVAX initiative "*in the coming days*," President Nicolas Maduro said.
- The **UAE** will start providing China's **Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine** to children aged 3-17.

Markets & Business

Asia's factories hit headwinds in July as rising input costs and a new wave of coronavirus infections overshadowed solid global demand. While activity in Japan and South Korea increased, China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia saw factory activity shrink.

- **Zoom Video Communications Inc** agreed to pay \$85 million and bolster its security practices to settle a lawsuit claiming it violated users' privacy rights by sharing personal data with Facebook, Google and LinkedIn.
- **China's securities regulator** said it will seek closer cooperation with the **US Securities and Exchange Commission's** (SEC) and will support overseas listings, after US regulators tightened disclosure for Chinese companies and voiced concern about Beijing's regulatory actions.
- **Kuwait Ports Authority** (KPA) has approved a proposal to build the Middle East's first city to serve electric vehicle manufacturers.
- **US Parker Hannifin** will acquire rival UK aerospace and defense company **Meggitt** in a £6.3 billion deal that marks the latest acquisition of a UK listed company by an overseas buyer.
- Payments company **Square** will acquire Australian “buy now, pay later” provider **Afterpay** in a \$29 billion all-stock transaction that would be the largest takeover in Australian history.

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Africa

- **Ugandan** President Museveni partially eased a tight lockdown imposed over a month ago, including re-opening some markets and shopping centers in towns.
- Saif al-Islam, the son of slain dictator Muammar Gaddafi wants to "*restore the lost unity*" of **Libya** after a decade of chaos and does not exclude standing for the presidency.
- Isabel dos Santos, daughter of **Angola's** former president and Africa's onetime richest woman, must return to Angola her shares in Portugal's Galp energy firm worth 422 million euros (\$500 million), an international arbitration court has ruled.
- **Madagascar** announced the arrest of five generals as well as high-ranking police officers in connection with a failed attempt to assassinate President Andry Rajoelina.
- Fifteen soldiers have been killed and six more are missing after a "*terrorist*" attack in southwest **Niger**, near the border with **Burkina Faso**, per the defense ministry.



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Asia

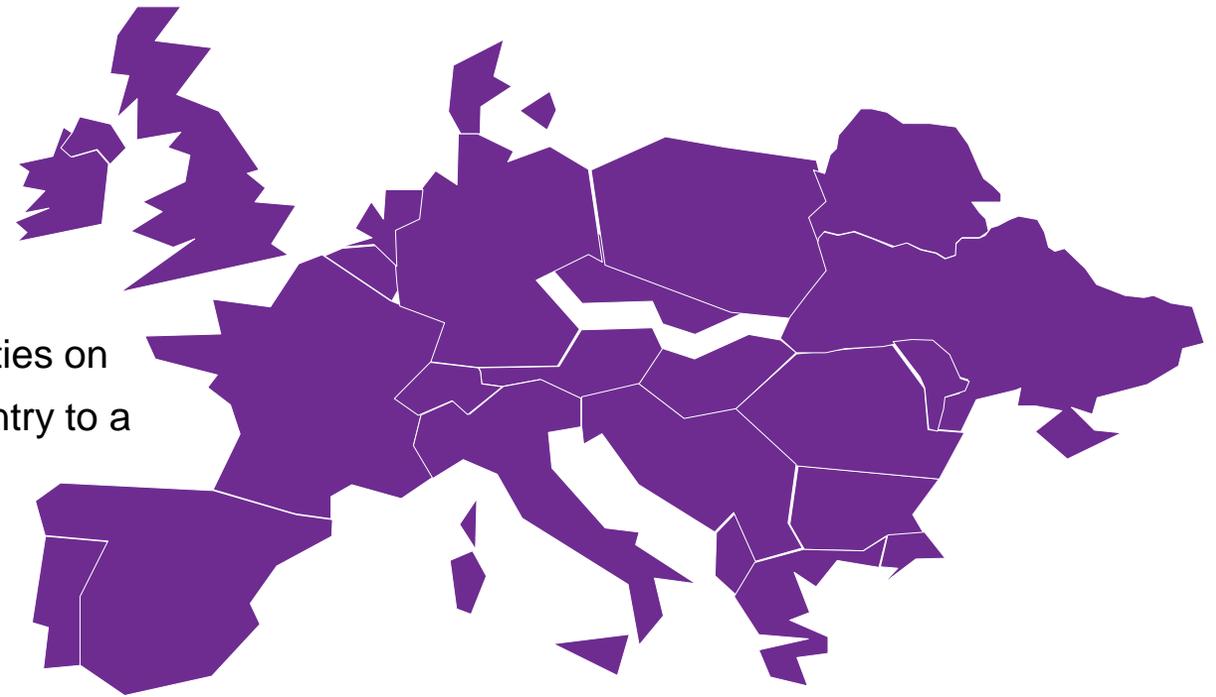
- **Japan's** defense minister has called on the international community to pay greater attention to the “*survival of Taiwan*” as he warned that **China's** military build-up was enveloping the island.
- The sister of **North Korean** leader Kim Jong Un warned that if **South Korea** carries out a planned joint military exercise with the **US**, it will damage the resolve of the two Koreas to rebuild relations. South Korea responded that no decision has been made on its joint military exercises with the US, calling them routine.
- **Myanmar's** military ruler has taken on the role of prime minister in a newly formed caretaker government, six months after the army seized power from a civilian government.
- The **Malaysian** opposition demanded resignation of Prime Minister n Yassin, after the premier deferred a parliamentary sitting amidst political turmoil.
- **Thailand** extended tighter containment measures in the capital and high-risk provinces probably until the end of August in a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19. Anti-government protesters in Thailand took to the streets, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha over his handling of the spread of COVID-19.
- **Australia's** Queensland state extended a COVID-19 lockdown in Brisbane, while soldiers began patrolling Sydney to enforce stay-at-home rules.
- **Hong Kong's** anti-corruption watchdog charged singer and prominent pro-democracy activist Anthony Wong with "corrupt conduct" at a 2018 election rally, the latest legal action against dissent.



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Europe

- Thousands of people protested in Paris and other **French** cities on Saturday against a mandatory coronavirus health pass for entry to a wide array of public venues.
- Hackers shut down the IT systems of the company that manages COVID-19 vaccination appointments for the Lazio region surrounding Rome, **Italy**.
- In **Italy**, over the course of one month, the Delta variant went from 22.7 percent of new cases to 94.8 percent.
- A **Belarusian** Olympic athlete walked into **Poland's** embassy in Tokyo, seeking asylum after having criticized her coaches and an attempted forced departure on a flight to Belarus.
- In **Austria**, climate activists blocked bank entrances in the heart of Zurich's financial district on Monday, protesting against lenders' financing of fossil fuel projects that damage the environment.
- The death toll from wildfires on **Turkey's** southern coast rose to eight on Sunday as firefighters battled for a fifth day to contain blazes still raging in coastal resort towns. Most of more than 100 blazes had erupted in Turkey in the past five days.



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How do You Manage Incident Response?

2021 has already seen business disrupted by extreme weather, ransomware attack, the ongoing pandemic and more. The common refrain “It’s not if, but when” rings truer than ever for disruptive incidents that will impact business as usual.

Working with Dentons, you can effectively develop an organizational incident-behavior adopted by all your team members. Dentons will help you build muscle memory through tabletop exercises, which are crafted to fit the business strategy of every client.

Our team plays events and incidents of different severities and complexities and accounts for real-world factors such as inconclusive evidence, mistakes by responders, and the business impact of eradication steps. Our tech-savvy lawyers continuously revise the playbooks per the evolving sector-specific threat landscape.

Dentons tabletop sessions are fluid, and designed to enhance preparedness with services, including:

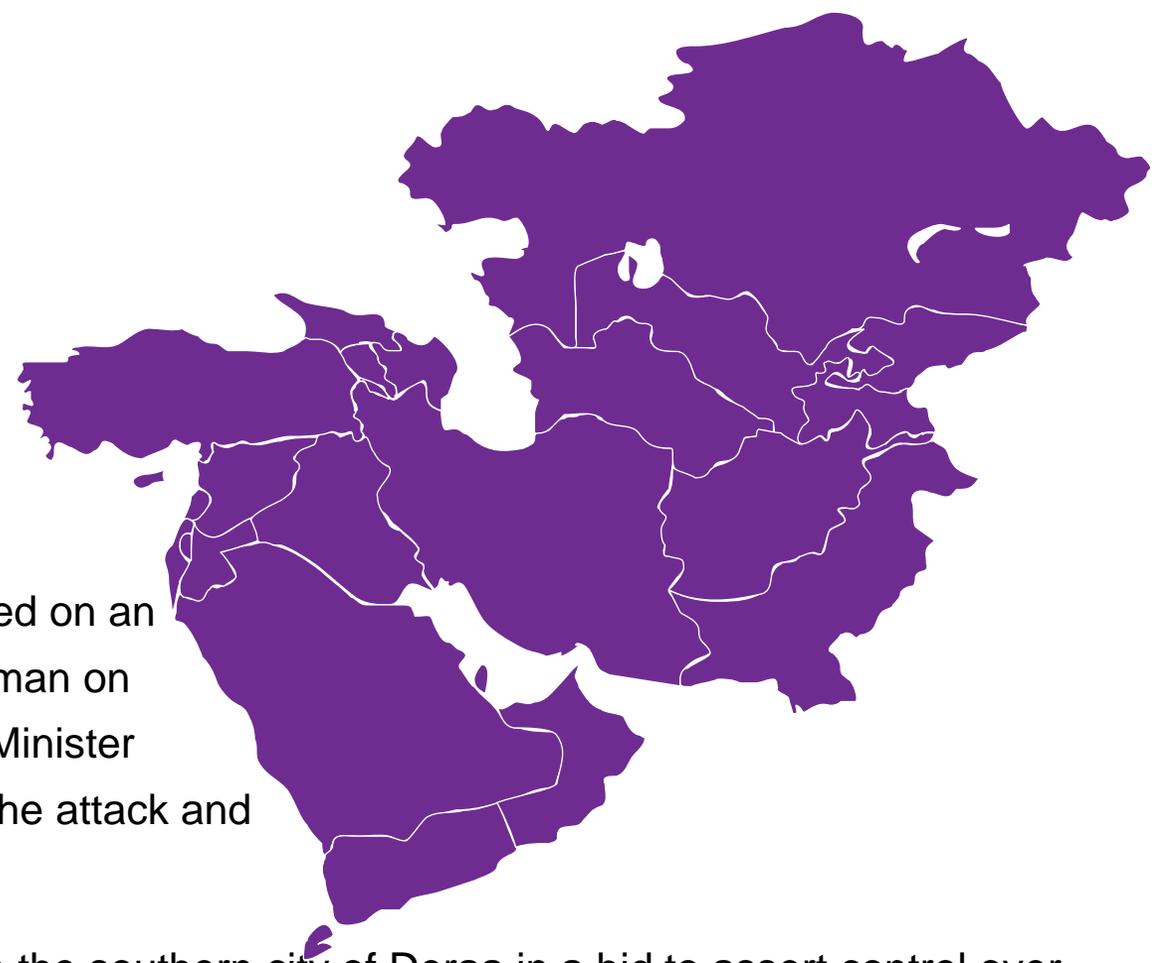
- ❖ Ransomware tabletop exercises
- ❖ Post-tabletop action reports
- ❖ Maturity assessments for preparedness
- ❖ Supply-chain attack simulation
- ❖ Comprehensive incident response plan
- ❖ Threat analysis and monitoring

All interaction with Dentons is attorney-client privileged

To learn more about the bespoke intelligence and risk services from Dentons, contact [Karl Hopkins](#).

Middle East

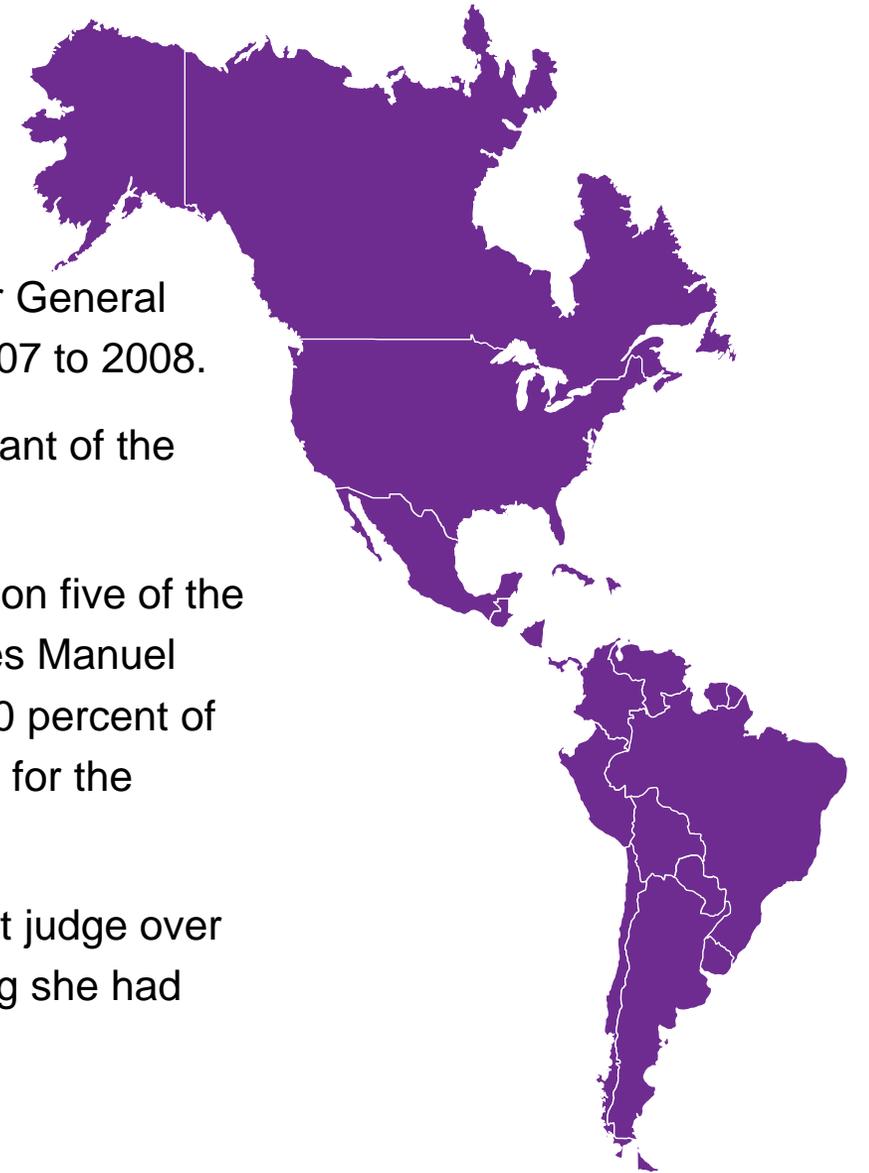
- **Tunisian** security forces have arrested two additional MPs from an Islamist party opposed to a power grab by President Kais Saied.
- **Britain** said on Sunday it believed **Iran**, using drones, attacked on an **Israeli**-managed petroleum product tanker off the coast of Oman on Thursday that killed a Briton and a Romanian. **Israeli** Prime Minister Bennett accused Tehran of "*trying to shirk responsibility*" for the attack and called its denial "*cowardly*."
- **Syrian** troops stepped up shelling of an opposition enclave in the southern city of Deraa in a bid to assert control over an area that has defied state authority since it was retaken three years ago.
- Taliban fighters struck Kandahar airport in southern **Afghanistan**, as fighting in Afghanistan intensify. President Ghani blamed the fast-deteriorating security situation on a "*sudden*" decision by the **US** to withdraw its troops.



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Americas

- **Colombia's** attorney general's office will charge former army commander General Mario Montoya for responsibility of 104 extrajudicial executions during 2007 to 2008.
- **El Salvador** has detected its first case of the highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus, per the health ministry.
- **Mexicans** on Sunday began to vote on whether to investigate for corruption five of the country's former leaders in a referendum championed by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, amid criticism that the move is a political stunt. At least 40 percent of registered Mexican voters, or some 37 million people, would need to vote for the results to be binding, a threshold unlikely to be met.
- **Haitian** police outlined fresh accusations against a former Supreme Court judge over her links to the assassination of President Moise earlier this month, saying she had met with some Colombian mercenaries accused of killing him.



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Americas: US

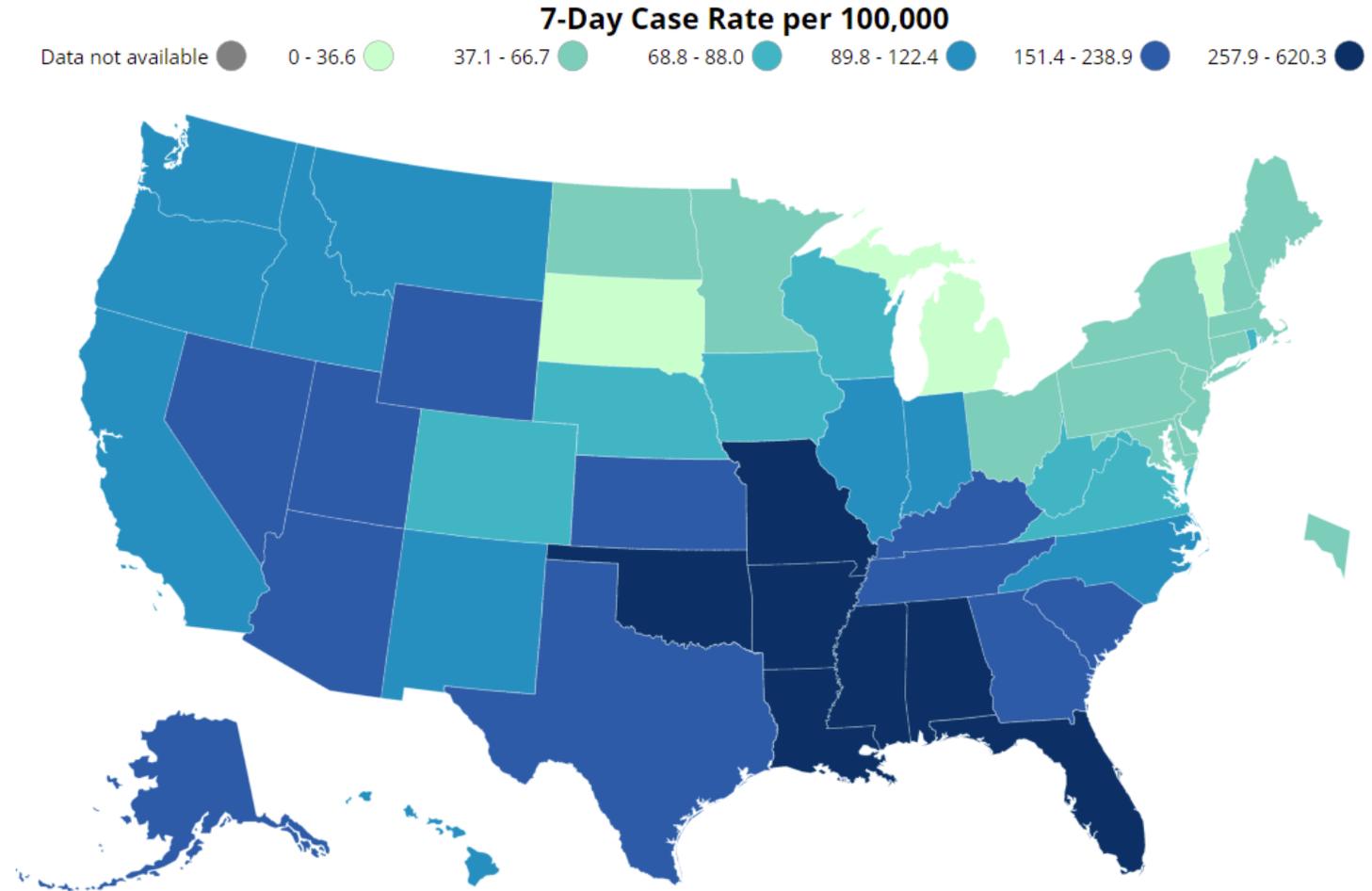
- Across the nation, 191.5 million have received at least **one dose of the vaccine**, or 57.7 percent of the total population. Walmart and Disney became the latest companies to announce they are **requiring vaccines** for many of their employees.
- Infectious disease expert Dr. Fauci assessed that a sufficient percentage of Americans have now been vaccinated to **avoid lockdowns**, while warning that Delta variant will fuel a surge in cases, mostly among the unvaccinated. Ford Motor Co. will require all employees will wear masks regardless of vaccine status in high-risk states of **Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri and Florida**.
- A pandemic-related **ban on residential evictions** expired at midnight on Saturday, putting millions of American renters at risk of being forced from their homes.
- Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee released a staff report which stated that “*ample evidence*” proved that coronavirus leaked from **China** lab; US intelligence has not reached any conclusion whether the virus came from animals or a lab.



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Americas: US

The average number of new coronavirus cases reported nationwide has nearly doubled in the past 10 days.



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Vaccine Update: Growing Momentum for Booster Shots

Will COVID-19 booster shots become the norm across vaccine-rich countries?

The alarming spread of the Delta variant and increased attention to breakthrough cases over the past several weeks is reinvigorating debate about the need for additional COVID-19 booster shots, prompting Israel to offer third doses for over-60s and fueling speculation that the Biden Administration is planning for US booster shots for the fall. As more information becomes available on the effectiveness and potential risks of third doses, as well as the development of new forms of booster shots, it seems increasingly likely that additional jabs will be rolled out in coming months. However, booster shots also risk slowing the global vaccine rollout and exacerbating inequalities in vaccine access across different countries.

Most current conversation on booster shots is discussing third doses of already-developed vaccines, or second doses for people who received single shots like Johnson & Johnson. Third doses are not new; the UAE and Bahrain have been offering third doses of the

Sinopharm vaccine for months, and Israel began offering third doses of Pfizer vaccines to people with vulnerable immune systems a few weeks ago. Last week, Israel extended its third shot offer to over-60s, in a bid to curb the spread of Delta among its already vaccinated population. As Israel has pledged to continue sharing vaccine and infection data with the rest of the world, international audiences are watching the country's third-shot rollout closely as a first wide-scale test for booster shots.

Along with offering vaccine third doses, or additional shots of a different vaccine – Indonesia, for example, started giving Moderna booster shots to healthcare workers who had received the Sinovac shot – there are a number of booster shots under development that differ from original COVID-19 vaccines. Moderna has been testing booster candidates that mix its currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine with another mRNA vaccine it has developed in a bid to provide better protection against new variants, though the approval

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Vaccine Update: Growing Momentum for Booster Shots

process for such a shot may be more prolonged than a simple third dose. Other vaccine developers are approaching booster shots from a more unique angle; biotech billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong recently made headlines with the announcement that ImmunityBio will begin trials in South Africa for a “universal booster” that focuses on raising T-cell response rather than antibodies.

Health and safety questions around booster shots center on whether such shots are needed, and whether they carry higher risks of side effects. A number of health experts have been pointing out for months that pharmaceutical companies have incentive to promote the use of booster shots, questioning the impartiality of companies like Moderna and Pfizer on the need for third doses. Last week, when Pfizer released new data suggesting efficacy diminishes over time, analysts pointed out that the company has a lot of money at stake, particularly if booster shots become a regular requirement. But officials in the US also seem to be leaning towards booster shots. Last weekend, media reported that Biden Administration officials are beginning to believe booster shots as increasingly likely to be needed. After the CDC’s warning that the Delta variant is as

infectious as chickenpox and can be easily spread by vaccinated people, officials likely hope that booster shots can help curb virus transmission by vaccinated people, even if two shots are already quite effective in preventing severe illness. However, the FDA would need to approve third shots, or second shots for recipients of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, before they would be recommended by the CDC.

On the question of side effects, Israeli health officials expect that any side effects will be minimal and have pledged to share data with the world as the country’s booster shot campaign continues. US officials have been more circumspect in booster statements. In mid-July, CDC deputy director Jay Butler also mentioned that the agency is looking into whether a third dose might be associated with a higher risk of side effects, given that second doses for two-shot vaccines were associated with higher side effect risks. But other health experts have brushed off concerns about side effects; John Hopkins assistant professor Amesh Adalja, for one, predicted in May that third shots would be no worse than second shots.

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Vaccine Update: Growing Momentum for Booster Shots

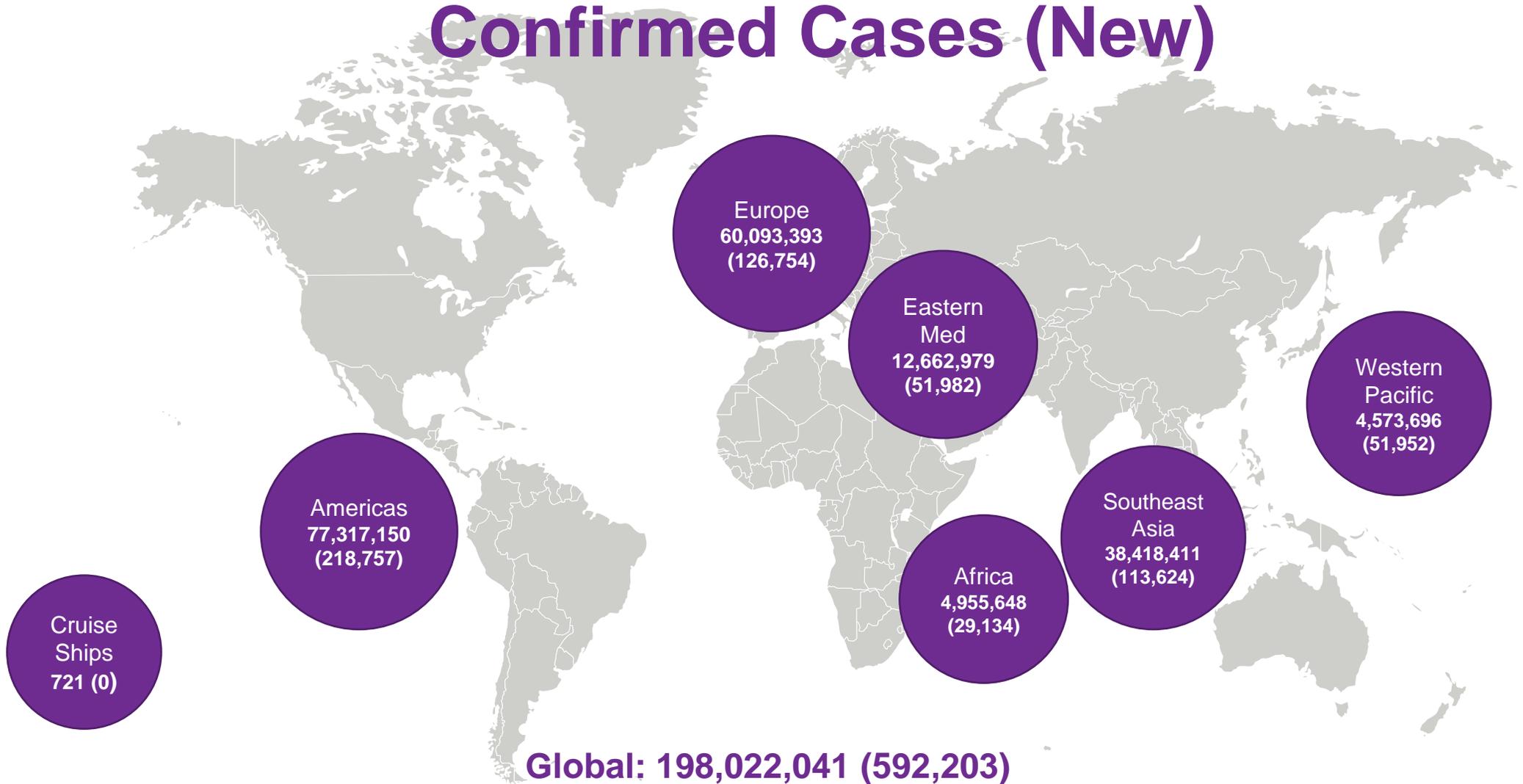
Beyond questions of need and efficacy, the biggest argument against booster shots focuses on the impact boosters could have on global vaccine rollout. If boosters do become the norm in vaccine-rich countries, their extra inventory is likely to be kept in-country rather than sent abroad where supply constraints are still slowing initial vaccinations. Global production capacity is still limited, particularly for mRNA vaccines, meaning that new orders from rich countries would divert supplies that could go to first doses for the unvaccinated. While much of the world lacks access to first doses of vaccine, the rollout of booster shots is seen by many as unethical and could ultimately prolong the pandemic's worst effects by slowing global vaccinations and allowing more time for even more transmissible variants to develop and circulate in regions with low vaccination rates.

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Coronavirus Condition Updates

As of 10:13 am CEST on August 2, 2021

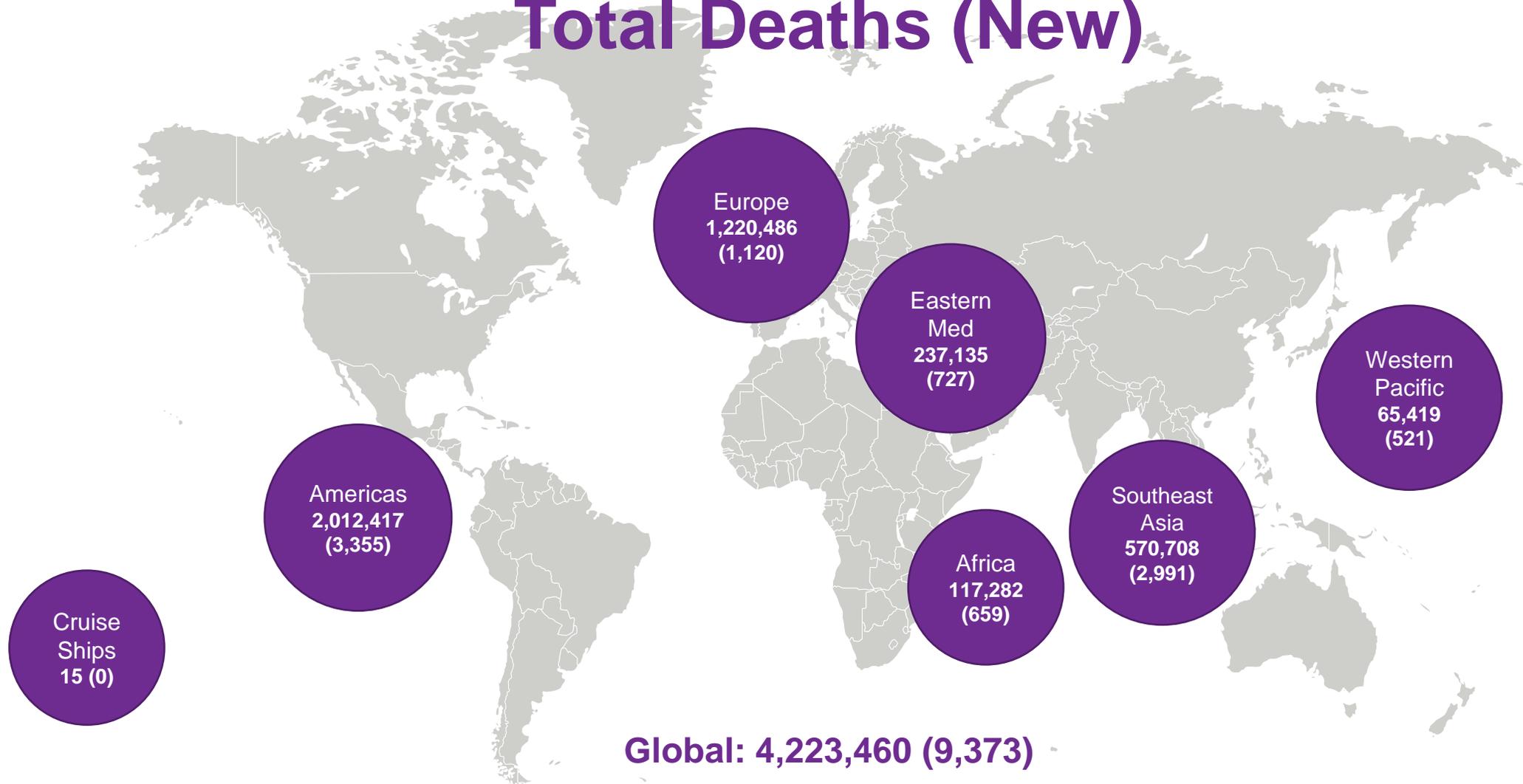
Confirmed Cases (New)



Reflects data as of 10:13 am CEST on August 2, 2021.
Data Source: World Health Organization

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Total Deaths (New)



Reflects data as of 10:13 am CEST on August 2, 2021
Data Source: World Health Organization

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Contacts

This summary is based on reports sourced from among the 75 countries in which Dentons currently serves clients as well as from firms in other locations, some of which will formally join Dentons later in 2020. We are pleased to share this complimentary summary and contemporaneous assessment, with the caveat that developments are changing rapidly. This is not legal advice, and you should not act or refrain from acting based solely on its contents. We urge you to consult with counsel regarding your particular circumstances.

To read additional analysis, visit the [Dentons Flashpoint portal](#) for insights into geopolitics and governance; industry and markets; cyber and security; science, health and culture; and economic and regulatory issues.

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