

1.4 – AUKUS Leaders’ Level Statement

April 5, 2022

Almost seven months after the original AUKUS announcement, the three administrations released the AUKUS Leaders’ Level Statement, and each of the three governments published nearly identical fact sheets on the agreement. The public statement added “hypersonics and counter-hypersonics” as well as “electronic warfare” to the list of areas for expanded information sharing. Just six weeks earlier, Russia massively expanded its invasion of Ukraine in a “special military operation” on three fronts.

BRIEFING ROOM

AUKUS Leaders' Level Statement

APRIL 05, 2022 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

Today, the leaders of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) partnership – Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, and President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. of the United States – assessed progress under AUKUS.

We reaffirmed our commitment to AUKUS and to a free and open Indo-Pacific. In light of Russia's unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful invasion of Ukraine, we reiterated our unwavering commitment to an international system that respects human rights, the rule of law, and the peaceful resolution of disputes free from coercion.

We are pleased with the progress in our trilateral program for Australia to establish a conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability. We are fully committed to establishing a robust approach to sharing naval propulsion technology with Australia that strengthens the global non-proliferation regime.

We also committed today to commence new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities, as well as to expand information sharing and to deepen cooperation on defense innovation. These initiatives will add to our existing efforts to deepen cooperation on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and additional undersea capabilities. As our work progresses on these and other critical defense and security capabilities, we will seek opportunities to engage allies and close partners.