

After France recalled its ambassadors from both Washington, D.C., and Canberra, Australia, the Biden administration and the Morrison government engaged French counterparts and apologized for the oversight. Australia ended up agreeing to pay \$584 million (U.S.) to France's Naval Group in a settlement finalized by the new Australian government of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in May of 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### **AUKUS Partnership Organization**

Although this edition of the AUKUS Briefing Book is published more than six months shy of the self-imposed March 2023 deadline for an "optimal pathway," the three governments have released many details about the partnership and continue to release details periodically. Perhaps the most important details released in the last year have been the framework for operationalizing the entire partnership and the approval of the legally binding agreement to support Australia's acquisition of nuclear submarines.

At this time, the AUKUS partnership has no overarching binding agreement; however, the "first initiative" of the partnership has a negotiated binding agreement that came into force on February 8, 2022, after each government completed the necessary binding actions. The official short title is the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information Agreement (ENNPIA).

The AUKUS partnership has a three-tiered governance framework consisting of a Senior Officials Group, two Joint Steering Groups (each overseeing a major line of effort), and 17 working groups. See diagram on the next page.

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<sup>6</sup> Josh Taylor, "Aukus Pact: Australia Pays \$830m Penalty for Ditching Non-Nuclear French Submarines," *The Guardian*, June 11, 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/11/aukus-pact-australia-pays-830m-penalty-for-ditching-non-nuclear-french-submarines>.