

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 16 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith (see annex I) a joint statement made on 15/16 September 2021 by Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia, Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America, announcing the intention of the Government of Australia to pursue nuclear-powered submarine technology. The statement affirms, without reservation, that the Government of Australia will not seek a nuclear weapons capability, in compliance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968, and will remain a steadfast proponent of the non-proliferation regime.

I also have the honour to transmit a copy of a note verbale on this announcement communicated to the International Atomic Energy Agency by the Governments of Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (see annex II).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mitch **Fifield**



Annex I to the letter dated 16 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint leaders statement on AUKUS

15 September 2021

As leaders of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, guided by our enduring ideals and shared commitment to the international rules-based order, we resolve to deepen diplomatic, security, and defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, including by working with partners, to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. As part of this effort, we are announcing the creation of an enhanced trilateral security partnership called “AUKUS” – Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Through AUKUS, our governments will strengthen the ability of each to support our security and defense interests, building on our longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties. We will promote deeper information and technology sharing. We will foster deeper integration of security and defense-related science, technology, industrial bases, and supply chains. And in particular, we will significantly deepen cooperation on a range of security and defense capabilities.

As the first initiative under AUKUS, recognizing our common tradition as maritime democracies, we commit to a shared ambition to support Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy. Today, we embark on a trilateral effort of 18 months to seek an optimal pathway to deliver this capability. We will leverage expertise from the United States and the United Kingdom, building on the two countries’ submarine programs to bring an Australian capability into service at the earliest achievable date.

The development of Australia’s nuclear-powered submarines would be a joint endeavour between the three nations, with a focus on interoperability, commonality, and mutual benefit. Australia is committed to adhering to the highest standards for safeguards, transparency, verification, and accountancy measures to ensure the non-proliferation, safety, and security of nuclear material and technology. Australia remains committed to fulfilling all of its obligations as a non-nuclear weapons state, including with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Our three nations are deeply committed to upholding our leadership on global non-proliferation.

Recognizing our deep defense ties, built over decades, today we also embark on further trilateral collaboration under AUKUS to enhance our joint capabilities and interoperability. These initial efforts will focus on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and additional undersea capabilities.

The endeavour we launch today will help sustain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. For more than 70 years, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have worked together, along with other important allies and partners, to protect our shared values and promote security and prosperity. Today, with the formation of AUKUS, we recommit ourselves to this vision.

**Annex II to the letter dated 16 September 2021 from the
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Note verbale

The Permanent Missions of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America to the International Organizations in Vienna present their compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has the honor to refer to the attached statement made on 15 September 2021 by the Honorable Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honorable Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America.

This statement announces an enhanced trilateral security partnership called “AUKUS” and indicates that the first initiative under AUKUS is a trilateral effort of 18 months to identify the optimal pathway to support Australia’s acquisition of a conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability for the Royal Australian Navy.

As we develop the details of this trilateral cooperation, we will do so with the critical objective of maintaining the strength of both the nuclear non-proliferation regime and Australia’s exemplary non-proliferation credentials. As such, we will be engaging with the IAEA throughout the coming months.

The Permanent Missions of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America to the International Organizations in Vienna request that the IAEA Secretariat bring this Note and its attachment to the attention of all IAEA Member States and avail themselves of the opportunity to renew to the IAEA the assurances of their highest consideration.
