

MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS – Week Ahead 27 Jun-3 Jul

by Tom Lake

All timings subject to change. Editor's Note: The next Political Risk Week Ahead will be published Monday 11 July.

Monday 27 June:

- **G7:** The G7 Leaders' Summit at the Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps continues. Main focus of 27 June set to be the G7's response to the war in Ukraine, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joining the group via videolink from Kyiv. Also set to be a series of bilateral discussions between the leaders, as well as sessions on issue such as climate, energy, health, and food security. Leaders of non-G7 nations have been invited to the summit as 'partner countries', with the heads of Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa set to be in attendance. Continues through to 28 June.
- **United Kingdom:** The UK government is due to put forward the Northern Ireland Protocol bill for its second reading in the House of Commons. A statement from Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and a short debate on the legislation is seen as likely around 1530BST (1030ET, 1630CET). The bill would unilaterally alter the protocol, much to the chagrin of the EU and its member states. Risks a major deterioration in relations, but unlikely to pass swiftly which could give time for further negotiations on the sensitive topic.
- **NATO:** Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg holds a press conference previewing the leaders' summit taking place from 28 June onwards.
- **European Union:** Energy ministers meet in Luxembourg in an attempt to try to reach an agreement on loftier climate change goals and policies, with raising the proportion of renewables in the EU energy mix a major aim as part of the 'Fit for 55' package. If an agreement is reached, negotiations can get underway with MEPs to draft legislation on the issue.
- **Israel:** Preliminary plenum holds a vote on the bills to dissolve the Knesset, bringing about the fifth general election in just over three years. Election seen as likely to take place in November 2022. Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid set to serve as caretaker PM until then following rotation with his coalition ally Naftali Bennett. Still no clear signal that a stable majority government can be formed after the election.
- **Australia-Vietnam:** Newly installed Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong is hosted by her Vietnamese counterpart Bui Thanh Son in Hanoi. The new Australian government of PM Anthony Albanese has spoken about strengthening ties with SE Asian neighbours, with Wong set to visit Malaysia on 28 June following talks with Vietnamese leaders.
- **Chile:** Public holiday for Feasts of Saint Peter & Saint Paul.

Tuesday 28 June:

- **United States:** First-round primary elections take place in Colorado, Illinois, New York, Oklahoma, and Utah ahead of the November midterms, while second-round run-offs take place in Mississippi and South Carolina. In Colorado incumbent Democratic Governor Jared Polis and Senator Michael Bennet are both set to win re-nomination. In Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker is set to win re-nomination. In the new Sixth district two incumbent Democrats face off against one another (Marie Newman and Sean Casten), while two Republican representatives (Mary Miller and Rodney Davis) battle for the new 15th District. New York Governor Katy Hochul is likely to win the Democratic nomination as she seeks her first full term as governor. Oklahoma GOP Senator James Inhofe retires at the end of the year, with Inhofe's chief of staff Luke Holland and Representative Markwayne Mullin both seeking the Republican nomination. Republican Governor Kevin Stitt and Senator James Lankford both set to win their party's primaries. Finally, in Utah, Senator Mike Lee faces two challengers in the GOP primary but is viewed as likely to overcome both, each of whom has criticised former President Donald Trump. In South Carolina, Catherine Fleming Bruce faces State Representative Krystle Matthews in the Democratic Senate primary to see who will face incumbent GOP Senator Tim Scott. In Mississippi, run-offs take place in the contest for the GOP nominations for the state's 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Congressional districts.
- **NATO:** Leaders arrive in Madrid, Spain for the leaders' summit. Joint press point from Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez at 1235CET, while Stoltenberg set to give opening speech at 1520CET (0920ET, 1420BST).
- **France:** The National Assembly holds its first session since the second-round legislative election on 19 June that saw President Emmanuel Macron's Ensemble alliance lose its majority. Dealmaking will be required if the legislature is not to collapse and potentially bring about a snap election. Australian PM Anthony Albanese also visits Paris in an attempt to mend fences following the French outrage of the cancelling of a submarine deal and the forming of the AUKUS alliance.
- **United Kingdom (Scotland):** Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is set to deliver a statement and answer questions in the Scottish Parliament on her government's nascent plans to hold a second independence referendum in October 2023. Sturgeon due to speak from 1430BST (0930ET, 1530CET). The path to a referendum taking place is unclear, with UK PM Boris Johnson's government in Westminster likely to block the vote.
- **Ukraine:** Constitution Day in Ukraine celebrating the country's constitution adopted in 1996. All public holidays suspended with Ukraine under martial law, but the event is unlikely to pass by unheralded by the Zelenskyy government in Kyiv, its supporters in the west, or potentially by the Russian military, which could launch new airstrikes following the shelling of Kyiv over the weekend.

Wednesday 29 June:

- **NATO:** Main events of NATO leaders' summit takes place, with leaders' arrivals from 0815CET (0215ET, 0715BST) followed by the leaders' meeting at 1030CET. The main topic of discussion will be the war in Ukraine and NATO's response, but also

the issue of Finland and Sweden's applications to the bloc currently being held up by Turkish opposition. A broader topic will be NATO's long-term deterrence and defence, with a focus on how the bloc can react to challenges entailed in the 2022 Strategic Concept intended to 'guide its political and military development so that it is equally prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow'. Leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea also in attendance for the first time as NATO seeks to demonstrate global not just European focus.

- **Central Asia:** Leaders of nations bordering the Caspian Sea meet in a summit in Turkmenistan. The visit will mark Russian President Vladimir Putin's first foreign excursion since the February invasion of Ukraine, with Putin set to visit Tajikistan on Tuesday as part of the same trip. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi is set to attend the Caspian summit.
- **Colombia, Peru:** Public holiday for Feasts of Saint Peter & Saint Paul.

Thursday 30 June:

- **NATO:** Leaders' summit in Madrid concludes with a final meeting of member state heads of government/state in the morning followed by Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's closing presser at 1215CET (0615ET, 1115BST). Focus at the end of the meeting about conclusions on the level of ground troop force escalation in eastern Europe and others steps to enhance European security.
- **OPEC:** OPEC and OPEC+ ministerial meeting takes place, with expectations that the members will maintain the current plan for accelerated oil output increases in August. Comes as US President Joe Biden is set to visit the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, as he seeks to suppress high oil prices that are contributing to strong inflationary pressures in the US and the West.
- **Russia-Indonesia:** Russian President Vladimir Putin set to host his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo in Moscow. Indonesia's relations with Russia are in focus as the former is the host nation for the G20 leaders' summit in November, with significant interest in whether Putin will be in attendance (which could result in a western boycott of the event).
- **Philippines:** President-Elect Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. is set to be sworn in for his single six-year term in office, replacing Rodrigo Duterte. Set to take place around midday local time. With a landslide win for Marcos and his VP candidate, Sara Duterte (the outgoing president's daughter) focus on his first actions in power. Marcos has taken the unorthodox action of appointing himself agriculture minister in his administration and has stated that his top priority is controlling food prices.

Friday 1 July:

- **Hong Kong:** 25th anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong from the United Kingdom to China. Chinese President Xi Jinping due to attend a meeting celebrating the event. Also set to attend the inauguration ceremony for the sixth-term government of Hong Kong, with John Lee set to take over from Carrie Lam as the Special Administrative Region's new Chief Executive.
- **European Union:** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visits the Czech Republic for talks with PM Robert Fiala as Prague takes over the six-month rotating presidency of the chair of the European Council from France.

- **UN:** Brazil takes on the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July, taking over from Albania.
- **Canada:** Public holiday for Canada Day.

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