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MONTHLY GLOBAL AFFAIRS

SEP 2026



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GEOPOLITICS

GLOBAL ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



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SECTION 01

International Relations

September's diplomatic calendar was unusually crowded: India hosted BRICS in New Delhi, Xi Jinping made his first Washington state visit in over a decade, and Venezuela's acting president addressed the UN for the first time — all while Russian drones tested NATO's eastern flank and the Iran war flared again around the Strait of Hormuz.

India Hosts BRICS as Its SHANTI Campaign Rolls On

India chaired the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12–13 September, bringing together Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Russia, South Africa, the UAE and partner countries under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." Leaders adopted the New Delhi Declaration, a 140-paragraph consensus document covering global-governance reform, Middle East de-escalation, and trade and finance cooperation.

The summit ran in parallel with India's continuing SHANTI push for a non-permanent UN Security Council seat for 2028–29, which still faces a contest from Tajikistan for the sole Asia-Pacific seat ahead of the General Assembly vote in June 2027.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, using the platform to advance global-governance reform and Middle East de-escalation themes that echo its SHANTI campaign.
>
> **Why it matters:** Chairing BRICS lets New Delhi project the same "reform champion" narrative underpinning its UNSC bid onto a larger multilateral stage.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether the New Delhi Declaration's language on Security Council reform gains traction ahead of the June 2027 vote.

NATO's Eastern Flank Absorbs a Wave of Russian Incursions

September brought a string of Russian drone and fighter-jet incursions into NATO airspace. On 10 September, roughly two dozen drones entered Polish airspace, forcing four airports to halt flights and prompting Warsaw to request Article 4 consultations. Romanian F-16s and Eurofighters scrambled to intercept a drone on 13 September, and Italian Eurofighters based in Lithuania destroyed an armed drone that had crossed from Belarus on 15 September.

On 19 September, Estonia said three Russian fighter aircraft entered its airspace, a violation its foreign minister called "unprecedentedly brazen," triggering a second round of Article 4 talks on 23 September. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said allied air defences "successfully ensured the defence of NATO territory," while stopping short of invoking Article 5.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** NATO convened Article 4 consultations twice in September after Russian drone and fighter incursions into Polish and Estonian airspace.
>
> **Why it matters:** Repeated incursions test how far Moscow can probe alliance resolve without triggering a collective defence response.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether further incursions push NATO to tighten rules of engagement or add air-defence assets to the eastern flank.

A Fresh Push for Russia–Ukraine Talks, Still No Breakthrough

After a six-month hiatus, US special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner travelled to Moscow on 5 September and Kyiv on 6–7 September to try to revive peace talks. President Putin told the envoys Russia would “achieve its objectives” and that the war’s “root causes” needed resolving, while the Kremlin said it was open to “new ideas” only on Moscow’s own terms.

President Zelensky said the issue of territory “remains a relevant one” that could only be resolved at leaders’ level. Witkoff described “substantive progress,” and trilateral US–Ukraine–Russia talks in the United Arab Emirates have been proposed and accepted in principle, though no date has been confirmed.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** The US restarted shuttle diplomacy between Moscow and Kyiv after a half-year lull, but neither side has shifted from its core positions.
>
> **Why it matters:** Four and a half years into the war, a renewed process without battlefield change risks becoming another cycle of raised and dashed expectations.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether the proposed trilateral talks in the UAE actually convene.

Iran War Flares Again as Tehran Floats a UN Ceasefire Roadmap

Fighting around the Strait of Hormuz intensified through most of September after a brief lull, with Iran claiming a tanker strike and the Pentagon’s estimate of the war’s cost climbing to $43.6 billion. On 22 September a senior Iranian official said Hormuz could reopen within seven days if Washington eased military pressure and lifted its naval blockade.

Two days later, at the UN, Iran presented the United States with a roadmap for a region-wide ceasefire of up to 60 days, a phased reopening of Hormuz, and an end to the US blockade, with national security council secretary Mohsen Rezaei also linking the proposal to Saudi restrictions on Houthi-held Yemen. Separately, a US measure denying Iranian airlines fuel, landing services and ticketing worldwide took effect on 23 September, with Iraq, Turkish Airlines and other carriers already complying.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Iran presented a formal ceasefire roadmap at the UN even as fighting around Hormuz intensified through most of the month.
>
> **Why it matters:** A war that had appeared to be cooling in August flared again, keeping the Gulf’s main oil chokepoint a live flashpoint deep into its seventh month.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether Washington responds substantively to Iran’s roadmap, and whether the aviation-denial measures bring Tehran back to the table.

Xi Jinping’s Washington Visit Puts Taiwan on the Table

Xi Jinping arrived in Washington on 23 September for his first US state visit in eleven years, reciprocating Trump’s May visit to Beijing. During their White House summit, Xi pressed Trump to “oppose” Taiwan independence outright — his first public call for Washington to shift its long-standing position of merely not supporting it.

The two leaders also discussed Iran, artificial intelligence and trade, with no breakthrough reported on Hormuz. A previously flagged $14 billion Taiwan arms package remains unapproved, with Trump describing it as being held “in

abeyance" and a useful negotiating chip.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Xi used his first Washington state visit in over a decade to press Trump publicly on Taiwan, tying the issue to cooperation on Iran and trade.
>
> **Why it matters:** Linking Taiwan to unrelated files like Hormuz raises the risk that Washington's Taiwan posture becomes a bargaining chip in wider dealmaking.
>
> **What to watch next:** Any signal on the outstanding Taiwan arms package following the summit.

Venezuela's Rodríguez Makes Her UN Debut

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez addressed the UN General Assembly for the first time on 23 September, pledging that "there will be elections in Venezuela" without setting a date, and declaring "Venezuela is being reborn." It was the first trip to the US by a Venezuelan head of state since 2018.

Rodríguez, who took power after January's US operation that captured Nicolás Maduro, avoided naming her predecessor in her remarks. She said her government has opened "political dialogue with opposition sectors" to build an "inclusive and transparent" electoral process, timed to when "the Venezuelan people" decide.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Venezuela's Rodríguez used her first UN address to promise elections and reset ties with Washington, more than eight months after Maduro's capture.
>
> **Why it matters:** A dateless promise of elections keeps Caracas's transition ambiguous even as it seeks international legitimacy.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether a concrete election timetable follows the announced opposition dialogue.

In Brief

• Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and USTR Jamieson Greer met China's Vice Premier He Lifeng in New York ahead of the Xi summit; the US–China trade truce was extended two months, to 10 January 2027.

• Lebanon's health ministry reported dozens killed in a fresh wave of Israeli strikes on Hezbollah-linked targets in September, including at Kfar Rumman, as Israel cited responses to drone attacks.

• Houthi forces expanded their hold on the Bab al-Mandeb corridor, seizing the Hanish and Zuqar islands in mid-September, compounding the Hormuz shipping disruption.

SECTION 02

World Economy

The month's headline event was the Federal Reserve's first rate hike since 2023 — a hawkish response to war-linked inflation — even as the national debt, gold and oil all hit fresh milestones and Washington and Beijing extended their fragile trade truce.

The Fed Raises Rates for the First Time Since 2023

At its 15–16 September meeting, the FOMC voted unanimously to raise its benchmark rate by 25 basis points to a target range of 3.75%–4.00%, its first increase in more than three years. The move followed August CPI data showing headline inflation at 3.4% year-over-year and core inflation at 2.4%, both still above the Fed's 2% goal.

The updated dot plot showed a more hawkish committee: most officials now expect the benchmark rate to sit between 4.1% and 4.4% by year-end, up from a prior estimate of 3.6%–4.1%. Chair Kevin Warsh reaffirmed the 2% target, saying "we have work to do."

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** The Fed delivered its first rate increase in three years, citing inflation still running above target amid war-linked energy costs.
>
> **Why it matters:** A hiking Fed, rather than the cutting cycle many expected earlier in the year, signals the inflationary drag of the Iran war is outlasting initial estimates.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether incoming data pushes the Fed toward the additional 2026 hike the dot plot now implies.

National Debt Tops $40.1 Trillion as the Tariff Regime Grinds On

The gross national debt, which first crossed $40 trillion on 18 August, stood at $40.10 trillion by 3 September and continues to add roughly $7 billion a day. The Congressional Budget Office has revised its FY2026 deficit estimate up to around $2.1 trillion.

The effective US tariff rate is holding near 11%, on track to reach roughly 11.8% by year-end as scheduled increases phase in under Section 301 and Section 232 authority — the framework the administration built after the Supreme Court struck down its original IEEPA-based tariffs earlier this year.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** The debt continued climbing past its $40 trillion milestone while the effective tariff rate held near 11% under the administration's post-Supreme Court tariff framework.
>
> **Why it matters:** Elevated interest costs — now exceeding defense spending — compound a still-high, legally contested tariff regime.
>
> **What to watch next:** Congressional response to the widened FY2026 deficit estimate.

Gold Breaks a 46-Year Record, Then Cools

Gold surpassed its inflation-adjusted 1980 all-time high on 7 September, extending a rally fuelled by record demand: the World Gold Council reported $18 billion of ETF inflows in August alone, lifting global gold-backed ETF holdings

to an all-time high of 4,189 tonnes.

Prices traded as high as the $4,500–$4,600 range through mid-September before easing to around $4,250 by 24 September — down roughly 8.7% over the trailing month — as the Fed's rate hike and progress restoring Saudi Arabia's East–West pipeline eased some inflation fears.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Gold broke a 46-year-old inflation-adjusted record before retreating as the Fed's rate hike and easing oil-supply fears cooled the rally.
>
> **Why it matters:** Record ETF and central-bank demand arriving simultaneously points to a structural, not just cyclical, shift into gold.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether gold's pullback proves temporary or marks a turn as rate expectations shift.

Oil Surges Back Above $100 a Barrel on Renewed Hormuz Fighting

Brent crude, which had eased toward the high-$80s in August, surged back above $100 in September as US–Iran fighting resumed around Hormuz, closing at $101.21 on 9 September — its highest since May. By 24 September, Brent stood at $106.39, up 21.9% over the month and 55% year-over-year.

Goldman Sachs raised its Brent and WTI forecasts and warned prices could exceed $120 a barrel if Gulf output stays suppressed, while Citi assigns meaningful odds to a spike toward $150. The Houthi seizure of Red Sea islands has compounded the disruption by narrowing the Bab al-Mandeb workaround.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Oil erased its August de-escalation gains and surged back above $100 a barrel as fighting flared anew around the Strait of Hormuz.
>
> **Why it matters:** With both Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb now constrained, markets have lost their usual workaround for a Gulf supply disruption.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether Iran's UN ceasefire roadmap, if accepted, meaningfully restores tanker traffic.

Xi's Visit Extends — But Doesn't Resolve — the US–China Trade Truce

Treasury Secretary Bessent announced a two-month extension of the US–China trade truce as Xi arrived in Washington, pushing the deadline from 10 November to 10 January 2027 and keeping reduced tariffs and rare-earth exports flowing. Negotiators are also "operationalising" a "Board of Trade" mechanism to identify further tariff cuts on non-strategic goods.

Delivery on existing commitments remains uneven: Chinese purchases have pushed US soybeans to only 23% of China's import basket, down from 40% before 2018-era tariffs, despite a 25-million-tonne pledge; roughly 140 of 200 promised Boeing orders are "in a good state"; and Bessent said rare-earth deliveries are still lagging.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Bessent announced a two-month extension of the US–China trade truce as Xi arrived in Washington, alongside uneven progress on soybean, aircraft and rare-earth commitments.
>
> **Why it matters:** A short two-month extension, rather than the six-months-plus many expected, signals persistent distrust even amid summit diplomacy.

What to watch next: Whether rare-earth delivery pace improves before the new 10 January deadline.

Global Growth Holds Near 3% Despite a Deepening Energy Shock

In a 10 September briefing, the IMF said the global economy had “weathered the energy shock caused by the war in the Middle East better than feared,” holding its 2026 growth projection at roughly 3.0% — broadly unchanged since its April and July updates.

IMF spokesperson Julie Kozack flagged persistently high oil and gas prices, mounting global debt, and a stalled disinflation process as the key risks still clouding the outlook, even as headline growth has proven more resilient than initially feared.

STRATEGIC INSIGHT

What happened: The IMF held its roughly 3% global growth forecast for 2026 even as it acknowledged the Middle East energy shock is not yet over.

Why it matters: Resilience in aggregate growth is masking mounting downside risks — high energy prices, rising debt, stalled disinflation — that could still tip the outlook.

What to watch next: The IMF’s next full World Economic Outlook update, and whether energy prices ease if Iran’s ceasefire roadmap advances.

SECTION 03

Geopolitics & Defense

European airspace, Gulf shipping lanes and the Taiwan Strait all saw sharper military signalling this month, even as an unusually full diplomatic calendar played out in New York and Washington.

NATO’s Eastern Flank Faces Its Most Serious Test Yet

September’s incursions drew a substantial allied response: Dutch F-35s, Italian AWACS aircraft, NATO’s multi-role tanker fleet and German Patriot systems were all involved in answering the Polish drone incursion alone. NATO convened Article 4 consultations twice in the month, first at Poland’s request on 10 September and again at Estonia’s on 23 September.

Officials from Romania and elsewhere describe a “hybrid intention” behind the pattern, warning that Russia will “keep trying, keep pushing, keep testing” the alliance’s eastern edge.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** NATO convened Article 4 consultations twice in September after Russian drone and fighter incursions into Polish and Estonian airspace.
>
> **Why it matters:** Repeated Article 4 consultations without an Article 5 response test the alliance’s threshold for triggering a collective defence.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether a further incursion prompts a change in NATO’s rules of engagement.

The Iran War’s Naval and Economic Dimensions Deepen

A US measure denying Iranian carriers fuel, landing services and ticketing worldwide took effect on 23 September, with Iraq beginning enforcement a day earlier and Turkish Airlines, AJet and Pegasus withdrawing Iranian routes from sale. Hormuz shipping traffic remains far below pre-war levels amid continued naval clashes.

Iran’s Statistical Center reported a 10.1% year-on-year contraction for the quarter running from late March to late June — the only official Iranian figure quantifying the war’s macroeconomic toll so far.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Washington widened economic pressure on Iran through a global aviation-denial regime even as naval clashes resumed around Hormuz.
>
> **Why it matters:** Squeezing Iran’s aviation sector adds a new front to the economic war running alongside the military one.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether the aviation measures push Tehran to make good on its Hormuz reopening offer.

Taiwan Strait Tension Rises Alongside Trade Diplomacy

Ahead of Xi’s Washington trip, China’s State Council issued a statement criticising Taiwan’s President Lai, while Xi’s public call for Trump to “oppose” Taiwan independence marked a rhetorical escalation from Beijing’s usual line.

US arms deliveries to Taiwan, including F-16s and HIMARS systems, continue in stages, but the previously flagged $14 billion package remains unapproved and is being used as leverage in the broader US–China relationship.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Beijing paired sharp rhetoric toward Taipei with direct pressure on Washington during the Xi–Trump summit.
>
> **Why it matters:** Linking Taiwan policy to broader US–China dealmaking raises the odds that Taipei's security becomes a bargaining chip.
>
> **What to watch next:** Any decision on the pending $14 billion Taiwan arms package.

A Nuclear Arms-Control Vacuum Persists

The New START Treaty, the last major agreement capping deployed US and Russian strategic nuclear weapons, expired on 5 February 2026 without a replacement. September marked more than seven months without any verified bilateral cap on either country's strategic arsenal, with no new framework on the horizon.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** The world passed the seven-month mark without any verified limit on US or Russian strategic nuclear arsenals.
>
> **Why it matters:** The absence of a replacement framework removes a decades-old guardrail just as NATO–Russia tensions rise on other fronts.
>
> **What to watch next:** Any signal of a resumed bilateral arms-control dialogue.

Venezuela's Transition Remains a Precedent-Setting Case

Rodríguez's UN debut kept alive the wider debate over whether January's US operation set a precedent for unilateral action justified by national interest rather than multilateral authorization. Opposition figure María Corina Machado has said she plans to return to Venezuela to support free elections, though those plans remain unconfirmed.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Venezuela's UN debut kept alive the debate over whether January's US operation set a precedent for unilateral regime change.
>
> **Why it matters:** How this precedent is treated could shape how other powers justify future unilateral action elsewhere.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether Machado's opposition faction engages with Rodríguez's dialogue offer.

In Brief

• Goldman Sachs and other major banks sharply raised their Brent oil forecasts, citing the compounding Hormuz–Bab al-Mandeb disruption.

• NATO Secretary-General Rutte reiterated pressure on allies to submit credible 5%-of-GDP roadmaps, with early movers already ahead of the 2035 deadline.

• Iran's IRGC-linked "Persian Gulf Strait Authority" continues to assert control over Hormuz shipping despite ongoing US Navy patrols.

QUICK REVISION

One-Liners: Quick Revision Digest

Forty rapid-fire facts drawn from this edition — ideal for a final scan before an exam, interview, or current-affairs quiz.

1. India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12–13 September 2026, chaired by PM Narendra Modi.
2. BRICS leaders adopted the 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration covering global-governance reform and trade.
3. India's SHANTI campaign for a 2028–29 UNSC seat still contests Tajikistan for the Asia-Pacific seat.
4. India's UNSC bid will be decided by a General Assembly vote in June 2027.
5. On 10 September, roughly two dozen Russian drones entered Polish airspace, halting flights at four airports.
6. Estonia said three Russian fighter aircraft violated its airspace on 19 September 2026.
7. NATO convened Article 4 consultations twice in September 2026, for Poland and then Estonia.
8. US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner visited Moscow on 5 September and Kyiv on 6–7 September.
9. President Putin told US envoys Russia would achieve its objectives and that the war's "root causes" must be resolved.
10. Trilateral US–Ukraine–Russia talks in the UAE have been proposed and accepted in principle.
11. The Pentagon's estimate of the Iran war's cost climbed to $43.6 billion by mid-September 2026.
12. On 24 September, Iran presented the US with a UN roadmap for a ceasefire of up to 60 days.
13. A US measure denying Iranian carriers fuel, landing and ticketing worldwide took effect on 23 September 2026.
14. Iran's Statistical Center reported a 10.1% year-on-year GDP contraction for the quarter ending in June.
15. Xi Jinping's Washington state visit ran from 23 to 25 September 2026, his first in eleven years.
16. Xi publicly urged Trump to "oppose" Taiwan independence at their White House summit.
17. A $14 billion Taiwan arms package remains unapproved, described by Trump as held "in abeyance."
18. Delcy Rodríguez addressed the UN General Assembly for the first time as Venezuela's acting president on 23 September.
19. Rodríguez pledged elections in Venezuela without specifying a date.
20. The Federal Reserve raised its benchmark rate by 25 basis points to 3.75%–4.00% on 16 September 2026.
21. The September FOMC vote to raise rates was unanimous, the Fed's first hike since 2023.
22. August 2026 headline CPI inflation came in at 3.4% year-over-year; core CPI was 2.4%.
23. The Fed's updated dot plot shows most officials expecting rates between 4.1% and 4.4% by end-2026.
24. The US national debt stood at $40.10 trillion as of 3 September 2026.
25. The effective US tariff rate is on track to reach roughly 11.8% by the end of 2026.
26. Gold surpassed its inflation-adjusted 1980 record high on 7 September 2026.
27. Global gold-backed ETFs took in $18 billion in August 2026, the second-largest monthly inflow on record.
28. Gold eased to around $4,250 an ounce by 24 September, down about 8.7% over the trailing month.
29. Brent crude closed at $101.21 a barrel on 9 September, its highest close since May 2026.
30. Brent crude stood at $106.39 a barrel on 24 September, up 21.9% over the month.
31. Goldman Sachs has warned Brent could exceed $120 a barrel if Gulf output stays suppressed.
32. Houthi forces seized the Hanish and Zuqar islands in the Red Sea in mid-September 2026.
33. The US–China trade truce was extended two months, to 10 January 2027, during Xi's visit.

34 The “Board of Trade” mechanism is being operationalised to identify further non-strategic tariff cuts.

35 US soybeans made up just 23% of China’s import basket in early 2026, down from 40% before 2018.

36 Roughly 140 of a pledged 200 Boeing aircraft orders from China are described as “in a good state.”

37 The IMF held its 2026 global growth forecast at roughly 3.0% in a 10 September briefing.

38 The New START Treaty expired on 5 February 2026, leaving no verified cap on US or Russian strategic arms.

39 Lebanon’s health ministry reported dozens killed in renewed Israeli strikes on Hezbollah-linked targets in September.

40 Nicolás Maduro remains held in Brooklyn awaiting trial following his January 2026 capture.

SELF-TEST

Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

Twenty multiple-choice questions covering every section of this edition. Answers appear on the next page — no peeking!

Q1. What multilateral summit did India host in New Delhi in September 2026?

A) G20
B) BRICS
C) SCO
D) Quad

Q2. What declaration was adopted at the September 2026 BRICS Summit?

A) Beijing Consensus
B) New Delhi Declaration
C) Johannesburg Accord
D) Rio Statement

Q3. Which country's airspace saw Russian drones force the closure of four airports on 10 September?

A) Romania
B) Lithuania
C) Poland
D) Estonia

Q4. How many Russian fighter aircraft entered Estonian airspace on 19 September 2026?

A) One
B) Two
C) Three
D) Five

Q5. Which two US envoys travelled to Moscow and Kyiv in early September 2026?

A) Rubio and Vance
B) Witkoff and Kushner
C) Bessent and Greer
D) Blinken and Sullivan

Q6. By what margin did the Fed raise interest rates in September 2026?

A) 50 bps
B) 10 bps
C) 25 bps
D) 75 bps

Q7. What is the new Fed funds target range after the September 2026 hike?

A) 3.00%–3.25%
B) 3.75%–4.00%
C) 4.25%–4.50%
D) 3.50%–3.75%

Q8. What was August 2026 headline CPI inflation, year-over-year?

A) 2.4%
B) 2.9%
C) 3.4%
D) 4.1%

Q9. Roughly what level had the US national debt reached by early September 2026?

A) $38 trillion
B) $39 trillion
C) $40.1 trillion
D) $42 trillion

Q10. What historic price level did gold surpass on 7 September 2026?

A) Its 2011 nominal high
B) Its inflation-adjusted 1980 record
C) $5,000/oz
D) $3,000/oz

Q11. Around what level did Brent crude trade on 24 September 2026?

A) $75
B) $90
C) $106
D) $130

Q12. Until when was the US–China trade truce extended during Xi's visit?

A) 10 November 2026
B) 25 December 2026
C) 10 January 2027
D) March 2027

Q13. What does the "Board of Trade" mechanism relate to?

A) Rare-earth mining rights
B) Identifying further US–China tariff cuts on non-strategic goods
C) A Taiwan arms package
D) IMF governance reform

Q14. What did the IMF project global growth at in its 10 September 2026 briefing?

A) 2.0%
B) 2.4%
C) 3.0%
D) 3.8%

Q15. What did Iran present to the US at the UN in late September 2026?

A) A trade proposal
B) A ceasefire roadmap
C) A nuclear deal
D) A prisoner exchange

Q16. What US measure targeting Iranian aviation took effect on 23 September 2026?

A) An airspace closure
B) Denial of fuel, landing and ticketing to Iranian carriers

C) A no-fly zone over Iran
D) Seizure of Iranian aircraft

Q17. Whose first Washington state visit in eleven years took place 23–25 September 2026?

A) Vladimir Putin
B) Xi Jinping
C) Narendra Modi
D) Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Q18. What did Xi Jinping publicly urge Trump to do regarding Taiwan?

A) Recognise Taiwan’s independence
B) Oppose Taiwan independence
C) End all arms sales immediately
D) Support UN membership for Taiwan

Q19. Who addressed the UN General Assembly for the first time as Venezuela’s acting president in September 2026?

A) Delcy Rodríguez
B) María Corina Machado
C) Cilia Flores
D) Jorge Rodríguez

Q20. When did the New START Treaty expire, leaving a nuclear arms-control vacuum still unresolved in September?

A) 5 February 2026
B) 28 February 2026
C) 17 June 2026
D) 24 August 2026

ANSWER KEY

Answer Key

Q1 – B	Q2 – B	Q3 – C	Q4 – C
Q5 – B	Q6 – C	Q7 – B	Q8 – C
Q9 – C	Q10 – B	Q11 – C	Q12 – C
Q13 – B	Q14 – C	Q15 – B	Q16 – B
Q17 – B	Q18 – B	Q19 – A	Q20 – A



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FOUNDER, STRATEGICWORLD360.COM

Srittam writes StrategicWorld360's Monthly Global Current Affairs briefing, distilling the month's essential developments in international relations, the world economy, and geopolitics into a curated format. The goal behind every edition is the same as the site's tagline: Think beyond headlines.

SOURCES

Public reporting including Reuters, AP, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg, CNBC, the IMF, NATO, the Federal Reserve, theUS Treasury, the World Gold Council, and the Congressional Budget Office, current as of late September 2026. This briefing is for generalinformational and educational purposes and does not constitute financial or legal advice.