

WORLD AGENDA

MAY 2020

1 May 27, U.S.: The *SpaceX Crew Dragon* spacecraft, with *Doug Hurley* and *Bob Behnken* on board, is scheduled to blast off to the International Space Station. It will be the first orbital launch of NASA astronauts from U.S. soil since the final space shuttle mission in 2011

2 May 17-21, Switzerland: The *World Health Organization Assembly* must deal with U.S. President Trump's decision to suspend funding, impacting efforts to contain the coronavirus pandemic

3 May 10, Poland: The ruling *Law and Justice party (PiS)* is driving ahead with a presidential election by postal ballot, despite a national lockdown. PiS-backed incumbent *Andrzej Duda* is predicted to win

4 May 20, UN: *World Bee Day* highlights a new program by *UNESCO* and French perfumer *Guerlain* to help save the threatened pollinators. Bees are increasingly at risk from human activities

5 May 23, Indonesia: The annual exodus of millions of people who stream out of cities to visit their family homes at the end of the Muslim fasting month of *Ramadan* has been banned to curb the spread of coronavirus. Indonesia has the highest number of Covid-19 deaths in East Asia after China

6 May 4-13, U.S.: The Supreme Court will hear arguments in cases postponed from March that involve subpoenas for President *Donald Trump's* financial records

7 May 8-9, Europe: The Covid-19 pandemic killed off planned commemorations to mark the 75th *Victory in Europe (VE) Day*. It also forced the postponement of *Vladimir Putin's* huge *Victory Day* parade in Moscow

8 May 12, Italy: *Florence Nightingale*, the founder of modern nursing, was born 200 years ago. The *Lady with the Lamp* dramatically reduced the mortality rate of soldiers in the Crimean War in an era before the discovery of ether or antibiotics