

WHY A GLOBAL RISK REPORT?

“We do not know which extreme risk event will come next. Learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, we can seize this opportunity to better anticipate and prepare to respond to large-scale global crises.” *Our Common Agenda, 2021*

BACKGROUND

On the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020, the Governments of the world recognized that “the COVID-19 pandemic caught us off-guard. It has served as a wakeup call for improving our preparedness for not only health related crises but also other challenges and crises. It is important to learn, share experiences and information to reduce risks and make our systems more resilient.” To better anticipate and respond to such risks, the Secretary-General indicated his intention to present a Global Risk Report to Member States in Our Common Agenda (2021). Following the 2022 thematic consultations, member states expressed support for the “Executive Office of the Secretary-General, along with UNDRR and other relevant UN offices, to work on this proposal and keep Member States engaged.”¹

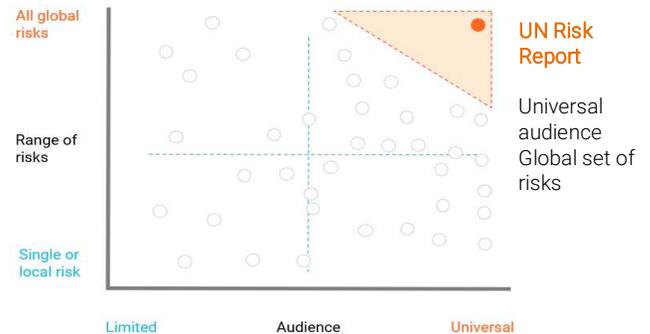
Global risks, including pandemics, interstate wars, and environmental disasters, have the potential to greatly impact the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore imperative that the multilateral community is regularly informed of these risks and that there are ongoing efforts to manage them. A key benefit of the Global Risk Report will be to assess perceptions of global risks and of the international community’s preparedness.

A geographically diverse and gender balanced “red team” with risk, survey, foresight, and behavioral science expertise will stress-test the methodology and approach.

AUDIENCE

While Member States of the United Nations and the policy actors in their executive and legislative offices are expected to be the primary users of this report, academic, civil society, and private sector actors will also benefit from the geographically diverse and extensive perception survey.

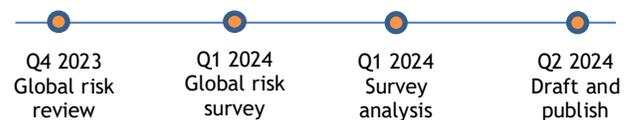
THE ADDED VALUE OF THE UN GRR



REPORT PREPARATION

The report will be developed through a rigorous process of risk identification, ranking of global risks, and compilation of findings in close collaboration with academic partners specialized in risk understanding and futures and strategic foresight. Following the shortlisting of global risks, a multi-stakeholder perception survey will be launched. The survey will rank these risks across social, technological, economic, environmental, and political categories according to their perceived likelihood, impact, and interactions, and rate the preparedness of the multilateral system to manage them. The survey will be targeted to experts within existing UN networks, including accredited civil society groups, academic partners, Member State governments, and industry partners of the UN Global Compact. The survey’s results will be used to perform a scenario development exercise to explore how risks may unfold and develop in different ways with varying consequences. Throughout the process, there will be close collaboration with risk experts from across the UN system, drawing on decades of experience with natural and anthropogenic hazards.

TIMELINE



¹ [Letter from the President of the General Assembly](#) – Final OCA Summary May 2022