

United Nations Global Risks Perception Survey

Background

Major global shocks in recent years have highlighted the need for the multilateral system to manage risks better. The Global Risks Perception Survey is being carried out by the United Nations with the support of the [Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk at the National University of Singapore](#) to gather information on stakeholders' perceptions of global risks and their views on the multilateral system's capacity to manage those risks. The survey results will inform the UN Global Risks Report which will be launched before the [Summit of the Future](#) in September 2024.

Scope

While the UN does not define or endorse any single definition of "global risk", for the purposes of this survey, a global risk can be understood as **an uncertain event or condition that would have a significant negative impact on a large portion of humanity and ecosystems.**

Selection of Risks

The survey features 28 of global risks. Their definitions are accessible throughout the survey by hovering over each risk (or tapping on mobile devices). This set of risks was selected through an extensive process of review and consultation by the UN. It is not intended to be comprehensive. However, you will be given an opportunity at the end of the survey to propose other global risks which you think are important.

Participation

You have been identified by the UN as a representative of your organization through nomination from your respective government; your affiliation to UN networks such as the UN Global Compact or Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

- The link is intended for your use only. Please do not share the link with anyone else.
- This survey will register one respondent per organization or government.
- If you believe you have been sent this in error, please close the survey now.

The survey has 4 sections and should take about 25 minutes to complete. No specialized knowledge of any specific risk issue is required to answer the questions. This survey aims to assess perception of the likelihood, impact, and interaction among the top global risks and their projected impact among governments, academia, private sector and civil society (including youth, women) across five continents.

The survey asks for some information about you such as your nationality and age. This will be used to analyze the demographic distribution of survey respondents. You will not be asked to provide your name or any other personal identifiers. All information provided will be regarded as confidential.

If you have any queries about the survey, you can contact:

unglobalriskreport@un.org

Data Protection

- The data collected in this survey will be used solely for research and analysis purposes insuring non-discrimination and sensitivity to gender and diversity, in line with United Nations policies and practices.
- All responses will be kept confidential throughout its processing and storage.
- Data will be aggregated and anonymized before any public dissemination of the results.
- Our data storage and security measures are robust, designed to prevent unauthorized access, alteration, or breach, in accordance with UN data security standards.
- After anonymization, the data may be processed by our trusted partners at the Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk at the National University of Singapore for the purpose of this research and analysis. These partners are also committed to data protection and confidentiality.
- You have the right to access, correct, delete, or object to the processing of your data. Please contact us at unglobalriskreport@un.org if you wish to exercise these rights.
- Data will be retained only as long as necessary for the stated purposes, with clear and responsible data deletion practices in place.
- Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the survey at any time.

I agree to the above Data Protection Policy and consent to participate in this survey under these conditions.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 1: About You

We appreciate you sharing the information below to help us measure the diversity of our survey responses. Your response will remain confidential, and your identity will be kept anonymous.

What is your year of birth?

▼ 1940 ... 2006

What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Would you describe yourself as having a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your primary nationality?

▼ Afghanistan ... Zimbabwe

In which domain(s) do you consider yourself to have significant expertise?

- ☐ Business strategy
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Climate and environment
- ☐ Financial services and capital markets
- ☐ Information, communications and technology
- ☐ Law
- ☐ Medicine and healthcare
- ☐ Politics and international relations
- ☐ Sciences (physical, chemical, and biological)
- ☐ Social activism or advocacy
- ☐ Military or defense
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other _____

In your professional capacity, do you work with multilateral institutions?

“Multilateral institutions” are organizations that support collective decision-making processes between governments, including the UN and its agencies, and other financial and economic cooperation organizations.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please select the type of organization in which you work.

- ☐ Government representative (*Please select this only if you have been requested by UN to represent a Member State. Other government officials, please select "Other"*)
- ☐ Private sector
- ☐ Civil society organization (CSO)
- ☐ Other _____

In which country is your organization based?

▼ Afghanistan ... Zimbabwe

What is the name of your organization? Please note that this information will be kept confidential, and only be used to verify that each organization is represented by one respondent.

Please answer all the questions in this survey **in your professional capacity, as a nominated representative of your organization.**

Please note that **only one response** should be provided **per organization.**

Section 2: Global Risks Outlook and Perception

For questions in this section, definitions are accessible through hovering over each risk (or tapping on mobile devices).

How soon do you think the following risks will have a significant negative impact on a large portion of humanity?

	Currently occurring	In 1-7 years	In 8-15 years	In 16-25 years	After 2050	Don't know
Biorisks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Breakdown in Cybersecurity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse in the Rule of Law and Massive Violations of Human Rights	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse of Multilateral Institutions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse of Social Cohesion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Economic Fragmentation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Erosion of State Authority	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geoengineering Disasters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geopolitical Tensions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Global Financial Crisis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Inaction on Climate Change	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large-scale Natural Hazard Risks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Mass Movement of People	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Misinformation and Disinformation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Negative Outcomes of AI and Frontier Technologies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
New Pandemic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Proliferation of Non-State Actors (incl. criminal and terrorist groups)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rapid Decline in Biodiversity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rise in Inequalities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shortages of Natural Resources	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Space-based Event	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supply Chain Collapse	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sustained Global Economic Stagnation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology-driven Power Concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Weapons of Mass Destruction	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Widespread Debt Crisis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How likely do you think the following risks will negatively impact a large portion of humanity by 2050?
Please use a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 represents “extremely unlikely” and 7 represents “extremely likely.”

	Extremely unlikely 1	2	3	4	5	6	Extremely likely 7	Don't know
Biorisks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Breakdown in Cybersecurity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse in the Rule of Law and Massive Violations of Human Rights	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse of Multilateral Institutions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse of Social Cohesion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Economic Fragmentation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Erosion of State Authority	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geoengineering Disasters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geopolitical Tensions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Global Financial Crisis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Inaction on Climate Change	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large-scale Natural Hazard Risks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large-scale Pollution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large-scale War	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Mass Movement of People	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Misinformation and Disinformation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Negative Outcomes of AI and Frontier Technologies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
New Pandemic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Proliferation of Non-State Actors (incl. criminal and terrorist groups)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rapid Decline in Biodiversity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rise in Inequalities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shortages of Natural Resources	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Space-based Event	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supply Chain Collapse	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sustained Global Economic Stagnation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology-driven Power Concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Weapons of Mass Destruction	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Widespread Debt Crisis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How severe do you think the impacts of the following risks would be, if they were to occur by 2050?

Please assess the severity of the following risks on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 represents “no impact at all” and 7 represents “extremely severe impact”

	No impact at all 1	2	3	4	5	6	Extremely severe impact 7	Don't know
Biorisks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Breakdown in Cybersecurity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse in the Rule of Law and Massive Violations of Human Rights	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse of Multilateral Institutions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collapse of Social Cohesion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Economic Fragmentation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Erosion of State Authority	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geoengineering Disasters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geopolitical Tensions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Global Financial Crisis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Inaction on Climate Change	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large-scale Natural Hazard Risks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large-scale Pollution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large-scale War	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mass Movement of People	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Misinformation and Disinformation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Negative Outcomes of AI and Frontier Technologies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Between now and 2050, what would you consider to be the top five risks that should receive the highest priority for action by multilateral institutions?

Please select your top five risks from the list below and rank them in order of priority, with 1 being the highest priority. Drag and drop to rank your answers.

“Multilateral institutions” are organizations that support collective decision-making processes between governments, including the UN and its agencies, and other financial and economic cooperation organizations.

Top Five Risks

- _____ Biorisks
- _____ Breakdown in Cybersecurity
- _____ Collapse in the Rule of Law and Massive Violations of Human Rights
- _____ Collapse of Multilateral Institutions
- _____ Collapse of Social Cohesion
- _____ Economic Fragmentation
- _____ Erosion of State Authority
- _____ Geoengineering Disasters
- _____ Geopolitical Tensions
- _____ Global Financial Crisis
- _____ Inaction on Climate Change
- _____ Large-scale Natural Hazard Risks
- _____ Large-scale Pollution
- _____ Large-scale War
- _____ Mass Movement of People
- _____ Misinformation and Disinformation
- _____ Negative Outcomes of AI and Frontier Technologies
- _____ New Pandemic
- _____ Proliferation of Non-State Actors (incl. criminal and terrorist groups)
- _____ Rapid Decline in Biodiversity
- _____ Rise in Inequalities
- _____ Shortages of Natural Resources
- _____ Space-based Event
- _____ Supply Chain Collapse
- _____ Sustained Global Economic Stagnation
- _____ Technology-driven Power Concentration
- _____ Weapons of Mass Destruction
- _____ Widespread Debt Crisis

For the remainder of the survey, you will be asked more in-depth questions on five randomly-selected risks. These risks are unrelated to your earlier responses.

Risks are often interconnected and can affect each other. In this section, you will be asked to identify how different risks are connected in the following ways:

- One other risk that is most likely to **lead to or cause** this risk
- One other risk that would most likely **worsen the impact** of this risk
- One risk that is most likely to occur **as a result** of this risk

Please proceed when you are ready.

Random Risk 1

In your opinion, what is one other risk that is most likely to lead to or cause Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one other risk that would most likely intensify or worsen the impacts of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one risk that is most likely to occur as a result of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

Random Risk 2

In your opinion, what is one other risk that is most likely to lead to or cause Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one other risk that would most likely intensify or worsen the impacts of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one risk that is most likely to occur as a result of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

Random Risk 3

In your opinion, what is one other risk that is most likely to lead to or cause Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one other risk that would most likely intensify or worsen the impacts of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one risk that is most likely to occur as a result of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

Random Risk 4

In your opinion, what is one other risk that is most likely to lead to or cause Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one other risk that would most likely intensify or worsen the impacts of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one risk that is most likely to occur as a result of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

Random Risk 4

In your opinion, what is one other risk that is most likely to lead to or cause Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one other risk that would most likely intensify or worsen the impacts of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

In your opinion, what is one risk that is most likely to occur as a result of Biorisks?

▼ Breakdown in Cybersecurity ... Other

Section 3: Global Risk Preparedness

This section seeks to understand your perspectives on how prepared multilateral institutions are to identify, respond to, and reduce global risks.

“Multilateral institutions” are organizations that support collective decision-making processes between governments, including the UN and its agencies, and other financial and economic cooperation organizations.

For questions in this section, definitions are accessible through hovering over each risk (or tapping on mobile devices).

Risk identification refers to the ability of actors to identify emerging risks, and when they might pose a significant threat.

In our opinion, how able are multilateral institutions to identify the following risks before they pose a significant threat on a scale of 1-7 (1 = not at all able, 7 = very able)?

	Not at all able	2	3	4	5	6	Very able	Don't know
	1						7	
Random Risk 1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Risk reduction refers to the ability of an actor to reduce the likelihood of a risk occurring.

In your opinion, how able are multilateral institutions to reduce the likelihood of the following risks occurring, on a scale of 1-7 (1 = not at all able, 7 = very able)?

	Not at all able	2	3	4	5	6	Very able	Don't know
	1						7	
Random Risk 1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Risk mitigation refers to the ability of an actor to reduce negative impacts of a risk and to ensure timely and full recovery after a risk occurs.

In your opinion, how able are multilateral institutions to mitigate the negative impact of the following risks on a scale of 1-7 (1 = not able at all, 7 = very able)?

	Not at all able	2	3	4	5	6	Very able	Don't know
	1						7	
Random Risk 1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Random Risk 5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

In your opinion, which forms of action do you think can best address the following risk?
Please select up to two forms of action.

Random Risk 1

- ☐ Action by civil society organizations
- ☐ Action by individuals
- ☐ Action by private sector organizations
- ☐ Bilateral action (i.e., between two governments)
- ☐ Joint action between civil society and private sector organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and civil society organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and private sector organizations
- ☐ Local government action
- ☐ Multilateral action (i.e., between three or more governments)
- ☐ National government action
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

In your opinion, which forms of action do you think can best address the following risk?

Please select up to two forms of action.

Random Risk 2

- ☐ Action by civil society organizations
- ☐ Action by individuals
- ☐ Action by private sector organizations
- ☐ Bilateral action (i.e., between two governments)
- ☐ Joint action between civil society and private sector organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and civil society organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and private sector organizations
- ☐ Local government action
- ☐ Multilateral action (i.e., between three or more governments)
- ☐ National government action
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

In your opinion, which forms of action do you think can best address the following risk?

Please select up to two forms of action.

Random Risk 3

- ☐ Action by civil society organizations
- ☐ Action by individuals
- ☐ Action by private sector organizations
- ☐ Bilateral action (i.e., between two governments)
- ☐ Joint action between civil society and private sector organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and civil society organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and private sector organizations
- ☐ Local government action
- ☐ Multilateral action (i.e., between three or more governments)
- ☐ National government action
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

In your opinion which forms of action do you think can best address the following risks?

Please select up to two forms of action

Random Risk 4

- ☐ Action by civil society organizations
- ☐ Action by individuals
- ☐ Action by private sector organizations
- ☐ Bilateral action (i.e., between two governments)
- ☐ Joint action between civil society and private sector organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and civil society organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and private sector organizations
- ☐ Local government action
- ☐ Multilateral action (i.e., between three or more governments)
- ☐ National government action
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

In your opinion, which forms of action do you think can best address the following risk?

Please select up to two forms of action.

Random Risk 5

- ☐ Action by civil society organizations
- ☐ Action by individuals
- ☐ Action by private sector organizations
- ☐ Bilateral action (i.e., between two governments)
- ☐ Joint action between civil society and private sector organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and civil society organizations
- ☐ Joint action between governments and private sector organizations
- ☐ Local government action
- ☐ Multilateral action (i.e., between three or more governments)
- ☐ National government action
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

In your opinion, what are the top barriers to effectively address the following risks?

You may make up to two selections per risk.

Random Risk 1

- ☐ Inadequate data and information
- ☐ Inadequate funding resources
- ☐ Incorrect prioritization of risks
- ☐ Insufficient finance options
- ☐ Lack of communication pathways
- ☐ Lack of political consensus
- ☐ Lack of trust and accountability
- ☐ Legal and regulatory constraints
- ☐ Limited access to skilled manpower
- ☐ Misaligned stakeholder incentives
- ☐ Strong resistance (public, political, or corporate)
- ☐ Technological challenges (access, use)
- ☐ Weak governance or coordination mechanisms
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

In your opinion, what are the top barriers to effectively address the following risks?

You may make up to two selections per risk.

Random Risk 2

- ☐ Inadequate data and information
- ☐ Inadequate funding resources
- ☐ Incorrect prioritization of risks
- ☐ Insufficient finance options
- ☐ Lack of communication pathways

- Lack of political consensus
- Lack of trust and accountability
- Legal and regulatory constraints
- Limited access to skilled manpower
- Misaligned stakeholder incentives
- Strong resistance (public, political, or corporate)
- Technological challenges (access, use)
- Weak governance or coordination mechanisms
- Don't know
- None
- Other _____

In your opinion, what are the top barriers to effectively address the following risks?

You may make up to two selections per risk.

Random Risk 3

- Inadequate data and information
- Inadequate funding resources
- Incorrect prioritization of risks
- Insufficient finance options
- Lack of communication pathways
- Lack of political consensus
- Lack of trust and accountability
- Legal and regulatory constraints
- Limited access to skilled manpower
- Misaligned stakeholder incentives
- Strong resistance (public, political, or corporate)
- Technological challenges (access, use)
- Weak governance or coordination mechanisms
- Don't know
- None
- Other _____

In your opinion, what are the top barriers to effectively address the following risks?

You may make up to two selections per risk.

Random Risk 4

- Inadequate data and information
- Inadequate funding resources
- Incorrect prioritization of risks
- Insufficient finance options
- Lack of communication pathways
- Lack of political consensus
- Lack of trust and accountability
- Legal and regulatory constraints
- Limited access to skilled manpower
- Misaligned stakeholder incentives
- Strong resistance (public, political, or corporate)
- Technological challenges (access, use)

- Weak governance or coordination mechanisms
- Don't know
- None
- Other _____

In your opinion, what are the top barriers to effectively address the following risks?

You may make up to two selections per risk.

Random Risk 5

- Inadequate data and information
- Inadequate funding resources
- Incorrect prioritization of risks
- Insufficient finance options
- Lack of communication pathways
- Lack of political consensus
- Lack of trust and accountability
- Legal and regulatory constraints
- Limited access to skilled manpower
- Misaligned stakeholder incentives
- Strong resistance (public, political, or corporate)
- Technological challenges (access, use)
- Weak governance or coordination mechanisms
- Don't know
- None
- Other _____

Section 4: Closing

We thank you for your kind participation in the 2024 UN Global Risk Survey. Your responses will be used to gain a deeper understanding of the global risk landscape and offer insights on how multilateral actors can better prepare for them.

How do you intend to use the Global Risks Report? Please select all that apply. (Optional)

- I do not intend to use the Global Risks Report
- To identify new risks
- To better characterize and assess global risks
- To inform the management of my organization
- To inform the strategy of my organization
- To understand the risk perception of stakeholders
- Other _____

In your opinion, are there any other important global risks that were not included in the survey? If so, please indicate them below. (Optional)

Risk 1 _____

Risk 2 _____

Risk 3 _____

Do you have any suggestions on how the report could provide additional value to you? (Optional)

Please provide your email below if you would like to receive updates on the publication of the report. (Optional)

End of Survey
