

BTI 2026

Codebook for Country Assessments



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Codebook for Country Assessments

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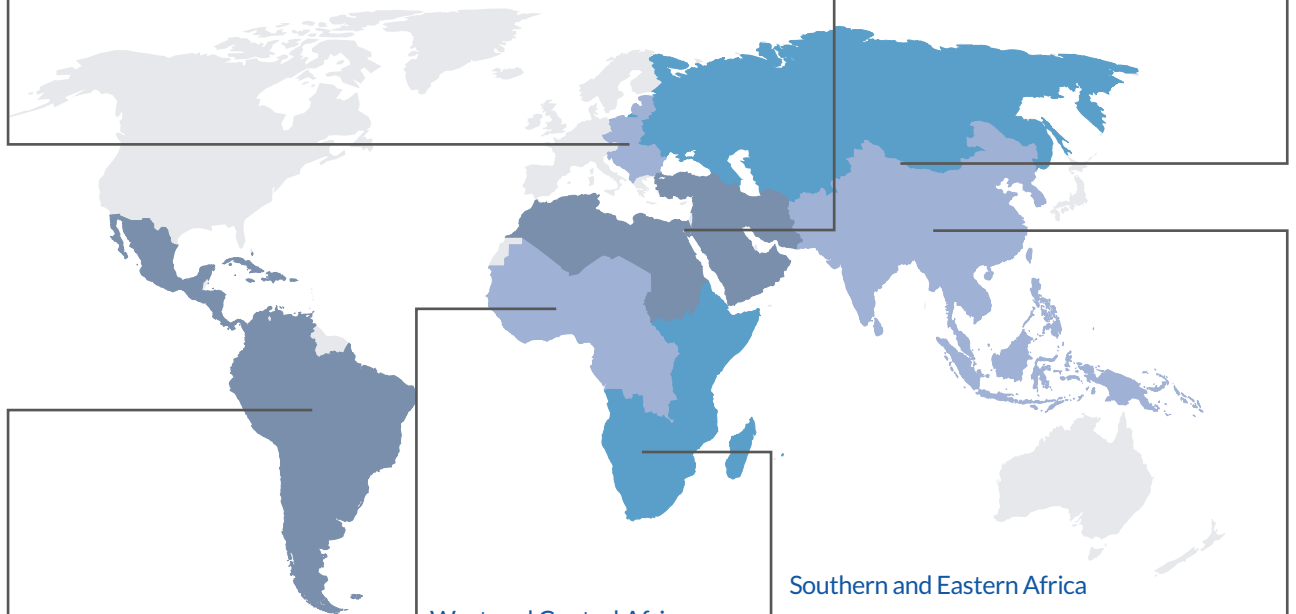
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Foreword

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Transformation Index BTI, a survey of political and economic transformation around the world. Our goal is to contribute to successful strategies for peaceful and sustainable transformation. Comprehensive in its approach, and with an emphasis on the quality of governance, the BTI has become a trusted and well-known measure of good governance for scholars and decision makers alike.

As experts on countries in transition, you are our most valuable asset; the knowledge and information you provide is central to helping us improve our understanding of the complex processes of transformation. This manual is intended to support you in your work by serving as a guide to the organization, procedures and practices of the BTI. It explains all the criteria and questions guiding the individual assessments comprising the BTI. It also aims to ensure a common understanding of the BTI's criteria, indicators and conceptual underpinnings in order to facilitate comparable assessments, reliable and objective ratings, and a transparent review process.

The BTI continues to be a fascinating learning experience, and we would like to thank all country experts who asked helpful questions or offered suggestions to improve the index and its outreach. As part of our regular methodological review, we have slightly modified the wording of some questions or explanations to improve clarity and ensure conceptual consistency.

In terms of collecting and processing the data, we will again rely on our online database system www.bti-network.de as our work platform, trusting that this procedure is facilitating your work and enhancing transparency and communication during the different stages of the process. As in the past, the BTI divides the world into seven regions that are supervised by regional coordinators with significant experience in their respective region. As your point of contact, your regional coordinator can provide support and answer any questions you might have about the BTI.

We look forward to working with you and encourage you to contact us or your regional coordinator with any questions that might arise.

The BTI Team

BTI Basics

What is the Transformation Index?

Throughout the world, democracy and a market economy have become powerful frameworks in which social sustainability can prosper. Successful processes of reform can be observed in every region of the globe. There are, however, no guarantees of success; many countries undergoing transformation face stagnation and power struggles or violence and even state failure. Good governance is pivotal to reform policies that work. What are the key decisions? What are the lessons to be learned from past experiences? What strategies are likely to succeed? Under which conditions? The BTI 2026 puts development and transformation policies to the test.

Advocating reforms aimed at supporting the development of a constitutional democracy and a socially responsible market economy, the BTI provides the framework for an exchange of good practices among agents of reform. The BTI publishes two rankings, the Status Index and the Governance Index, both of which are based on in-depth assessments of 137 countries. The Status Index ranks the countries according to the state of their democracy and market economy, while the Governance Index ranks them according to their respective leadership's performance. Distributed among the dimensions of democracy, market economy and governance, a total of 17 criteria are subdivided into 49 indicators.

BTI countries are selected according to the following criteria: They have yet to achieve a fully consolidated democracy and market economy, have populations of more than one million, and are recognized as sovereign states.

The Transformation Index project is managed by the Bertelsmann Stiftung. More information is available at www.bti-project.org.

Concepts of analysis and measurement

Constitutional democracy The construction of the BTI and the questions set out in this manual are based on specific analytic concepts of democracy, a market economy and governance. In contrast to minimalist definitions of electoral democracy, the BTI's understanding of democracy includes the rule of law and the separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers with checks and balances. Our concept of democratic transformation reflects the extent to which a democratic order is consolidated in terms of acceptance, interest representation and political culture. Thus we seek to assess the extent to which the ground rules of democracy are both established and accepted within society. Individual democracy questions indicate whether and how to assess political transformation under authoritarian conditions.

Because we consider the cohesion and identity of a state a necessary condition for the sustainability of democracy, the BTI combines the democracy assessment with an assessment of the country's stateness. Transformation can be shaped profoundly by issues of stateness such as a contested state monopoly on the use of force, disputed nationhood, interfering religious dogmas or the absence of basic administrative infrastructures.

Inclusive and sustainable market economy The underlying BTI concept of a market economy equipped with socio-political safeguards implies not only the existence of free markets and property rights, but also the principles of social justice, responsibility and sustainability. In our understanding, development entails not only economic growth, but also the process of overcoming poverty while extending freedoms of action and choice to the largest possible share of the population.

Because we consider democracy to be empirically and functionally interlinked with a market economy, we aggregate democracy and market economy indices into a single Status Index. Transformation thus refers to comprehensive, politically managed social change from an authoritarian system toward democracy and a market economy. Constitutional democracy and a socially responsible market economy are goals but not necessarily direct priorities in the complex processes of development and transformation.

Good governance Since the BTI considers leading political actors crucial to development and transformation, their governance performance is examined and compared more closely in a separate ranking, the Governance Index. Governance here is defined as the performance, capacity and accountability of the political leadership, i.e., of those political actors who have the power and responsibility to shape or determine public policy in a society. These actors include not only governments and political elites, but also nongovernmental organizations that can play an important role in transformation. Political leadership demonstrates good governance in BTI terms when it manages development and transformation effectively, uses resources efficiently, builds a broad consensus on reform and cooperates with international partners.

Country assessment procedure

1 Assessment preparation

Please review this codebook, which defines key concepts, explains the methodology and clarifies procedures. We advise you to access the online database www.bti-network.de as soon as possible. Material relevant to the assessment process (including this codebook, a style guide and other documents) can be downloaded there. You can also familiarize yourself with the BTI and its previous editions at www.bti-project.org. More information on assessment preparation can be found on page 10.

2 Writing your country report

The country report is intended to provide both a comprehensive narrative and substantive analysis of the state of transformation and the governance performance of political elites in your country. More on writing your report on page 10.

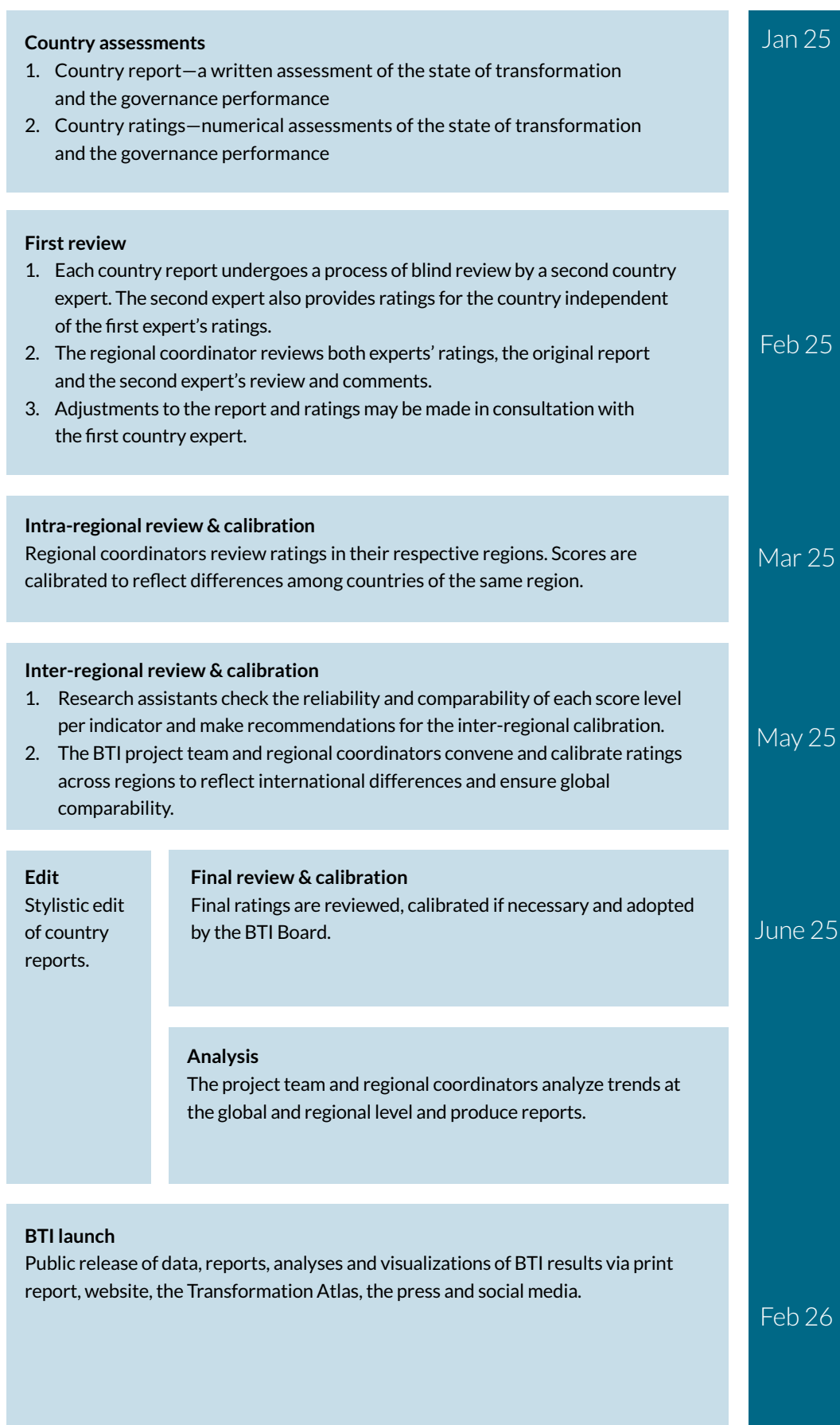
3 Assigning country ratings

For each section you have written in your country report, you will need to give a score that correlates to your assessment. There are a total of 49 indicators requiring ratings. More on ratings on page 14.

4 What happens after submission?

Once you have completed and submitted the country report and the country ratings at www.bti-network.de, assessments undergo a review and calibration process before going to print. For more on how individual assessments are processed to create the BTI, go to page 15.

BTI Workflow



1 Assessment preparation

A helpful starting point to prepare yourself for the assessment will be to read the reports on your country provided by previous editions of the BTI. Country reports from all previous BTI editions are accessible at www.bti-project.org. This is where you will also find an article on the methodology of the BTI, which details the BTI's conceptual underpinnings, analytical dimensions, criteria and the process of index creation. To start the country assessment online, you will receive a password which allows you to enter the database at www.bti-network.de. Please use the database manual to get acquainted with your work platform. Should you have any questions, please contact the BTI team or your regional coordinator.

2 Writing your country report

The country report needs to provide: (1) a comprehensive analysis of the state of transformation and its governance in your country, and (2) a detailed but concise substantiation of this analysis. Authors are asked to provide as much country-specific detail as possible within a framework designed for standardization. Doing so allows for an in-depth analysis of governance within a specific country as well as international and longitudinal comparability. Reviewers are asked to supplement the information provided by the author, or to challenge the report's assessment, if country-specific details are not sufficiently provided.

The authors are requested to sketch a holistic view of the state of affairs in the following texts: Executive Summary, History and Characteristics of Transformation, and Strategic Outlook. The responses to individual criteria and questions should provide substantiations, explanations and justifications for a given rating.

The report and your comments should reflect the situation in your country at the beginning of 2025. Your evidence should refer to the period February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2025. Please make sure that your BTI 2026 report is carefully updated and reflects current developments. Do not insert footnotes or bibliographical references.

BTI Country Report Structure

500 words

Executive Summary

Identifies the key developments affecting your country's democratic and economic transformation from 2023 to 2025.

600 words

History and Characteristics

Maps the trajectory of transformation.

Indicator Texts

Indicator texts should provide a precise overview of the state of transformation and governance at the end of January 2025.

3,200 words

Democracy

1	Stateness	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4
2	Political Participation	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4
3	Rule of Law	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4
4	Stability of Democratic Institutions	4.1	4.2		
5	Political and Social Integration	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4

3,200 words

Market Economy

6	Level of Socioeconomic Development	6.1			
7	Organization of the Market/Competition	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4
8	Monetary and Fiscal Stability	8.1	8.2		
9	Private Property	9.1	9.2		
10	Welfare Regime	10.1	10.2		
11	Economic Performance	11.1			
12	Sustainability	12.1	12.2		

4,000 words

Governance

13	Level of Difficulty	13.1	13.2	13.3		
14	Steering Capability	14.1	14.2	14.3		
15	Resource Efficiency	15.1	15.2	15.3		
16	Consensus-building	16.1	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.5
17	International Cooperation	17.1	17.2	17.3		

500 words

Strategic Outlook

Identifies strategic policy recommendations for advocates of reform, domestic and external.

approx.
12,000 words

Executive Summary

Snapshot of current failures and successes. This text identifies the key developments within the period under review affecting the country's course of democratic and economic reform. It should provide the reader with a vivid image of transformation in your country. There is no need to summarize all 17 criteria and 49 indicators; focus instead on what you consider most important to the development of democracy and a market economy in your country from 2023 to 2025. Often the most difficult text to write and comment on, this one is best saved for last.

1. Start with key, illustrative points and show how they affect transformation and why they are so important.
2. Introducing too many points at the start will overwhelm and confuse most readers.
3. If you can condense several key issues into three or four concepts (e.g., talk about state failure rather than list a series of discrete points without context such as deficiencies in stateness, rule of law and the monopoly on the use of force) your reader is likely to read more.

History and Characteristics

Mapping the trajectory of transformation. This text outlines past developments in democratic and economic reform, beginning with the liberalization of the country's past authoritarian regime. For countries that are currently autocracies, past regime changes or major political developments shaping the present situation may be described. Past market reforms and structural economic changes shaping the current state of affairs should also be sketched. The purpose here is not to provide a history of the country per se, but to set the scene for the Executive Summary and Strategic Outlook.

1. Where appropriate, you can use the text provided in the BTI 2024. Please update when necessary.
2. Key figures, parties, events or developments should be introduced here.
3. Be strategic about where to start your timeline. There is rarely a need to recapitulate a century of history.

Indicator Texts

The backbone: 17 criteria made up of 49 indicators that measure the extent to which a country has transformed and how its leadership manages transformation.

Your responses to the questions provided in the questionnaire should reflect the situation in your country at the end of January 2025. To ensure international and longitudinal comparability, responses must explain in concrete terms why or how a given aspect is (partially) met or not (e.g., How do state powers check and balance each other?). Exceptions, limiting circumstances or otherwise relevant information not explicitly addressed by the question are also appropriate here.

1. Most important: You must address each indicator in the database, assign a score and indicate your level of confidence before you will be able to submit the report. Please follow this carefully when you draft the report.
2. The questionnaire provides four different response options for each indicator. You can use the wording of the most suitable option and adjust it to the situation in your country. Please substantiate your ratings with empirical evidence wherever possible.
3. Try to provide particularly rich evidence for the governance dimension, as it is a distinctive feature of the BTI.
4. Level of detail: be judicious. Each indicator should warrant at least one salient example.
5. Avoid generalizations such as “a weak rule of law is one of the most important shortcomings in good governance.”
6. Refer to events, policies or decisions made during the period under review.
7. Do not substitute a response with a reference to another indicator.
8. Avoid piling up information by simply adding information to the BTI 2024 country report. Most country reports tend to get longer over time, at times containing outdated and repetitive information which makes the text more difficult to read. To support your awareness of the text length, a word count is integrated into the database.

Strategic Outlook

The Strategic Outlook text should facilitate dialogue on key challenges by suggesting policy strategies for actors (domestic and international). You are not expected to forecast trends, but make suggestions on how to confront or handle main problems. If your country is successfully advancing transformation, provide a suggestion on how to sustain and promote good strategies currently underway. There is no need to recap key problems or successes in detail; state these succinctly at first, moving quickly to your suggestions. Please avoid:

1. Talking about the past.
2. Generalizations such as “future trends are difficult to establish at this point.”
3. Stand-alone generalizations such as “reducing poverty is crucial to sustained economic transition”; follow this up with a suggestion for at least one aspect of poverty reduction.

3 Assigning country ratings

49 indicators require numerical rating. The rating scale for each indicator ranges from 10 (best) to 1 (worst). Four response options relate to the scoring levels of 10 – 7 – 4 – 1, each of which describes an empirical assessment that corresponds to a respective rating. In most cases, the indicator question is further clarified with an accompanying text.

The indicators are grouped into criteria such as Stateness, Political Participation, etc. Directly below the criterion title, the normative assumption made by the BTI is provided as an additional guide to the indicator questions and ratings (see example below). Please assign your rating by:

1. Considering which response option best approximates the situation in your country.
2. Relate and compare your rating with that given to your country in the previous BTIs.
3. Determine whether the response option is fully compatible with the situation in your country, or whether a slightly better or worse rating might be called for.

The following example illustrates questionnaire components:

3	Criterion: Rule of Law State powers check and balance one another and ensure civil rights.																		
3.1	Separation of powers																		
	To what extent is there a working separation of powers (checks and balances)?																		
	<small>This question refers to the basic configuration and operation of the separation of powers (institutional differentiation, division of labor according to functions and, most significantly, checks and balances). This includes the extent to which state power is subject to the law.</small>																		
	<table border="0"><tr><td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">There is a clear separation of powers with mutual checks and balances.</td><td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">10</td></tr><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr><tr><td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">The separation of powers is in place and functioning. Checks and balances are occasionally subject to interference, but a restoration of balance is sought.</td><td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">7</td></tr><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr><tr><td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">The separation of powers is formally established but weak in practice. One branch, generally the executive, has largely undermined checks and balances.</td><td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr><tr><td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">There is no separation of powers, neither de jure nor de facto.</td><td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">1</td></tr></table>	There is a clear separation of powers with mutual checks and balances.	10		9	The separation of powers is in place and functioning. Checks and balances are occasionally subject to interference, but a restoration of balance is sought.	7		6		5	The separation of powers is formally established but weak in practice. One branch, generally the executive, has largely undermined checks and balances.	4		3		2	There is no separation of powers, neither de jure nor de facto.	1
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	3																		
	2																		
There is no separation of powers, neither de jure nor de facto.	1																		

4 What happens after submission?

The country report will be reviewed by a second country expert and by the coordinator responsible for your region. To ensure an independent second assessment, the review will be conducted anonymously, and we will not disclose experts' names during the rating period.

As the author, you will receive detailed comments on your report within four weeks after submission. Please consider these comments and adjust your report accordingly.

Please note that the regional coordinators and the BTI editors will revise and modify your report more substantially than is usual for conventional scholarly publications. Given the scale of the BTI and the need for international comparability of standardized assessments, such modifications are necessary.

Ratings review and calibration

The 49 numerical ratings for each of the 137 countries are reviewed and adjusted three times. First, a second country expert gives ratings in response to the 49 questions independently of the first expert. Then, regional experts discuss these ratings and agree on ratings that reflect the differences among countries of the same region. To ensure global comparability, the regional coordinators and the BTI team then convene and review ratings across regions and calibrate the scores. During the final review phase, ratings are reviewed and calibrated by the BTI Board, a panel of esteemed scholars and practitioners with long-term experience in the field of development and transformation who advise the BTI team. Should a calibrated rating differ significantly from that suggested by you, we might consult you and request your opinion, which will influence the final rating. Final rating decisions, however, are made by the BTI Board.

Democracy

17

Your responses should reflect the situation at the end of January 2025.

- 1 Stateness
- 2 Political Participation
- 3 Rule of Law
- 4 Stability of Democratic Institutions
- 5 Political and Social Integration

Market Economy

27

Your responses should reflect the situation at the end of January 2025.

- 6 Level of Socioeconomic Development
- 7 Organization of the Market and Competition
- 8 Monetary and Fiscal Stability
- 9 Private Property
- 10 Welfare Regime
- 11 Economic Performance
- 12 Sustainability

Governance

38

Your responses should refer to the country's political leadership during the period under review (February 2023 – January 2025). If there was substantial change of policy during this period that can be assessed already, please rate the political leadership as of January 2025.

- 13 Level of Difficulty
- 14 Steering Capability
- 15 Resource Efficiency
- 16 Consensus-building
- 17 International Cooperation

Democracy

- 1 Stateness
- 2 Political Participation
- 3 Rule of Law
- 4 Stability of Democratic Institutions
- 5 Political and Social Integration

There is clarity about the nation's existence as a state with adequately established and differentiated power structures.

1.1

Monopoly on the use of force

To what extent does the state's monopoly on the use of force cover the entire territory of the country?

In addition to your written assessment, please give an estimate of the percentage of territory and population the state has effective control over.

There is no competition with the state's monopoly on the use of force throughout the entire territory.

10

9

8

The state's monopoly on the use of force is established nationwide in principle, but it is challenged by guerrillas, mafias or clans in territorial enclaves.

7

6

5

The state's monopoly on the use of force is established only in key parts of the country. Large areas of the country are controlled by guerrillas, paramilitaries or clans.

4

3

2

There is no state monopoly on the use of force.

1

1.2

State identity

To what extent do all relevant groups in society agree about citizenship and accept the nation-state as legitimate?

The question seeks to assess the extent to which

- major groups in society accept and support the official / dominant concept of the nation-state
- access to citizenship and naturalization is denied to particular groups (on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender or for political reasons).

The large majority of the population accepts the nation-state as legitimate. All individuals and groups enjoy the right to acquire citizenship without discrimination.

10

9

8

The legitimacy of the nation-state is rarely questioned. Some groups are denied full citizenship rights.

7

6

5

The legitimacy of the nation-state is frequently challenged. Significant aspects of citizenship are withheld from entire population groups.

4

3

2

The legitimacy of the nation-state is questioned fundamentally. Different population groups compete for hegemony and deny citizenship to others.

1

There is clarity about the nation's existence as a state with adequately established and differentiated power structures.

To what extent are legal order and political institutions defined without interference by religious dogmas?

This question seeks to assess the extent to which the state's legal framework and institutional arrangements are based on secular norms and positive law. If the legal system, its jurisdiction and political institutions are defined by and derived from religious dogmas, there will likely be fundamental barriers to the development of individual beliefs, capacities and choices.

Note: Religious dogmas can prove influential in politics, with churches or religious groups acting as interest groups (e.g., with regard to laws on abortion or divorce) as part of the decision-making process. This should negatively affect the assessment only in those instances, when their influence leads to the direct transfer of religious norms into laws.

The state is secular. Religious dogmas have no noteworthy influence on legal order or political institutions.

10

9

8

The state is largely secular. However, religious dogmas have considerable influence on legal order and political institutions.

7

6

5

Secular and religious norms are in conflict about the basic constitution of the state or are forming a hybrid system.

4

3

2

The state is theocratic. Religious dogmas define legal order and political institutions.

1

To what extent do basic administrative structures exist?

This question seeks to examine whether the basic civil functions of a state apparatus are fulfilled in terms of regulation, administration and implementation. It does not refer to the most basic security functions like keeping the peace or maintaining law and order. It primarily addresses the existence and scope of administrative structures, as well as their operational reach across the territory (differentiation, efficiency, accessibility).

Please assess functions such as:

- the provision of jurisdiction, tax authorities and law enforcement
- the administration of communication, transport and basic infrastructure (water, education, health)

Quantitative Reference Indicators: Access to water · Access to sanitation · Access to electricity

The state has a differentiated administrative structure throughout the country which provides all basic public services.

10

9

8

The administrative structures of the state provide most basic public services throughout the country, but their operation is to some extent deficient (lack of resources, corruption, inefficiency).

7

6

5

The administrative structures of the state are extending beyond maintaining law and order, but their territorial scope and effectivity are limited.

4

3

2

The administrative structures of the state are limited to keeping the peace and maintaining law and order. Their territorial scope is very limited, and broad segments of the population are not covered.

1

2.1

Free and fair elections

To what extent are political representatives determined by general, free and fair elections?

Please assess if:

- general elections are regularly conducted on the national level
- universal suffrage with secret ballot is ensured
- several parties with different platforms are able to run
- political posts are filled according to election outcome

When evaluating the quality of elections, please consider if:

- the electoral management body is impartial and effective
- registration procedures for voters, candidates and parties are transparent and fair
- the polling procedures, including vote count, result verification and complaint resolution, are conducted in a transparent, impartial and correct manner
- fair and equal media access is ensured for all candidates and parties
- polling is accessible, secure and secret to ensure effective participation

There are no constraints on free and fair elections.

10

9

8

General, multi-party elections are held, conducted properly and accepted as the means of filling political posts. However, there are some constraints on the fairness of the elections with regard to registration, campaigning or media access.

7

6

5

General elections are held, but serious irregularities during voting process and ballot count occur. The rights to vote, campaign and run for office are restricted, and elections have de facto only limited influence over who governs.

4

3

2

National elections, if held at all, are entirely unfree and unfair.

1

2.2

Effective power to govern

To what extent do democratically elected political representatives have the effective power to govern, or to what extent are there veto powers and political enclaves?

Veto powers refer to individuals or groups who have the power to undermine democratic procedures without questioning the system as such. Veto powers can come from the military, the clergy, landowners, business elites, and external actors, among others. They can “veto” the results of democratic decisions or retain prerogatives that cannot be touched by democratically elected officeholders (e.g., nominating the commander-in-chief of the armed forces).

Note: This point is distinct from the stateness criterion; guerrilla organizations, paramilitaries, state-free regions (in slums or in rural areas) are not the veto powers meant here.

Democratically elected political representatives have the effective power to govern. No individual or group is holding any de facto veto power.

10

9

8

Democratically elected political representatives have considerable power to govern. However, individual power groups can set their own domains apart or enforce special-interest policies.

7

6

5

Democratically elected political representatives have limited power to govern. Strong veto groups are able to undermine fundamental elements of democratic procedures.

4

3

2

Political decision-makers are not elected. Or: Elected bodies have no influence at all.

1

**To what extent can individuals form and join independent political or civic groups?
To what extent can these groups operate and assemble freely?**

When assessing the degree of freedom of association and assembly, please consider:

- if the constitution guarantees freedom of association and assembly, and if these laws are enforced
- if there are severe restrictions on assembly and association for all citizens or for particular groups
- if the government uses intimidation, harassment or threats of retaliation to prevent citizens from exercising the rights to association and assembly (e.g. by arbitrarily arresting, detaining and imprisoning peaceful demonstrators or using excessive force)
- if the government uses transparent and non-discriminatory criteria in evaluating requests for permits to associate and/or assemble
- if groups are able to operate free from unwarranted state intrusion or interference in their affairs

Legal restrictions to protect democratic processes (no-protest zones, prohibition of fascist or racist organizations) should not be considered a reason for providing a lower score.

Association and assembly rights are guaranteed against interference or government restrictions. Residents and civic groups can fully exercise these rights.

10

9

8

Association and assembly rights are occasionally subject to interference or government restrictions, but generally there are no outright prohibitions of independent political or civic groups.

7

6

5

Association and assembly rights are often subject to interference or government restrictions. Residents and civic groups that do not support the government often cannot exercise these rights.

4

3

2

Association and assembly rights are denied. Independent civic groups do not exist or are prohibited.

1

To what extent can citizens, organizations and the mass media express opinions freely?

When assessing the degree of freedom of expression, please consider:

- if the constitution guarantees freedom of expression, and if these laws are enforced
- if individuals, organizations or media are harassed or physically threatened by either the state or influential interest groups and if there are cases of assault against dissenting media or critical journalists
- if the state practices censorship, or if journalists practice self-censorship
- if penal code, security laws or penalties for libeling state officials are enacted to intimidate dissenting opinion
- if freedom of information legislation is in place and effective
- if the structure of the media system provides for a plurality of opinions

Legal restrictions to protect democratic processes (ethical guidelines by media supervisory boards, prohibition of hate-speeches) should not be considered a reason for providing a lower score.

Freedom of expression is guaranteed against interference or government restrictions. Individuals, groups and the press can fully exercise these rights.

10

9

8

Freedom of expression is occasionally subject to interference or government restrictions, but there are generally no incidents of blatant intrusions like outright state censorship or media shutdowns.

7

6

5

Freedom of expression is often subject to interference or government restrictions. Distortion and manipulation shape matters of public debate.

4

3

2

Freedom of expression is denied. Independent media do not exist or are prohibited.

1

3.1

Separation of powers

To what extent is there a working separation of powers (checks and balances)?

This question refers to the basic configuration and operation of the separation of powers (institutional differentiation, division of labor according to functions and, most significantly, checks and balances). This includes the extent to which state power is subject to the law.

There is a clear separation of powers with mutual checks and balances.	10
	9
	8
The separation of powers is in place and functioning. Checks and balances are occasionally subject to interference, but a restoration of balance is sought.	7
	6
	5
The separation of powers is formally established but weak in practice. One branch, generally the executive, has largely undermined checks and balances.	4
	3
	2
There is no separation of powers, neither de jure nor de facto.	1

3.2

Independent judiciary

To what extent does an independent and functioning judiciary exist?

This question seeks to examine to what extent the judiciary has the ability and autonomy to perform its function. To interpret existing laws and legislation, both public and civil, courts need to pursue their own reasoning free from external influence and corruption. This requires a differentiated organization of the legal system, including legal education, jurisprudence, regulated appointment of the judiciary, rational proceedings, professionalism, channels of appeal and court administration.

The judiciary is institutionally differentiated and fully functional. It is independent and free both from undue external influence and from corruption.	10
	9
	8
The judiciary is institutionally differentiated, but partially restricted by insufficient territorial or functional operability. It is largely independent, even though occasionally its decisions are impaired by undue external influence and by corruption.	7
	6
	5
The judiciary is to some extent institutionally differentiated, but severely restricted by functional deficits, insufficient territorial operability and scarce resources. Its independence is heavily impaired by undue external influence and high levels of corruption.	4
	3
	2
The judiciary is not institutionally differentiated and not independent.	1

3.3

Prosecution of office abuse

To what extent are public officeholders who abuse their positions prosecuted or penalized?

This question seeks to assess if public servants and politicians are held accountable by legal prosecution and public contempt when they break the law and engage in corrupt practices. It also includes conflicts of interest and ethical misconduct. The focus should be on the extent to which the rule of law is undermined by political corruption. Please note that the quality of anti-corruption policy shall be assessed in indicator 15.3.

Note: Please be aware that the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International uses the data and information of indicators 3.3 and 15.3 for their assessments. To avoid circularity of assessments, please do not base your evaluation of the extent to which office abuse is prosecuted on the CPI.

Officeholders who break the law and engage in corruption are prosecuted rigorously under established laws and always attract adverse publicity.

10

9

8

Officeholders who break the law and engage in corruption generally are prosecuted under established laws and often attract adverse publicity, but occasionally slip through political, legal or procedural loopholes.

7

6

5

Officeholders who break the law and engage in corruption are not adequately prosecuted, but occasionally attract adverse publicity.

4

3

2

Officeholders who break the law and engage in corruption can do so without fear of legal consequences or adverse publicity.

1

3.4

Civil rights

To what extent are civil rights guaranteed and protected, and to what extent can citizens seek redress for violations of these rights?

Civil rights contain and limit the exercise of state power by the rule of law. Their most important aspects comprise:

- the protection of personal liberty against state and non-state actors, including the right to life and security of the person, prohibition of torture, cruel and inhuman treatment or punishment and the protection of privacy
- equality before the law, equal access to justice and due process under the rule of law

Your answer should examine both the de jure and de facto situation concerning the protection of civil rights, including the mechanisms and institutions established to prosecute, punish and redress violations of these rights. Please also bear in mind that discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, race or political preference should be evaluated explicitly in the report and reflected in the rating.

Civil rights are codified by law and respected by all state institutions, which actively prevent discrimination. Residents are effectively protected by mechanisms and institutions established to prosecute, punish and redress violations of their rights.

10

9

8

Civil rights are codified by law, but are not properly respected and protected. Mechanisms and institutions to prosecute, punish and redress violations of civil rights are in place, but are not consistently effective.

7

6

5

Civil rights are codified by law, but even the most fundamental rights (i.e., to life, liberty and physical integrity) are violated in practice. Mechanisms and institutions to prosecute, punish and redress violations of civil rights are largely ineffective.

4

3

2

Civil rights are systematically violated. There are no mechanisms and institutions to protect residents against violations of their rights.

1

4.1

Performance
of democratic
institutions**Are democratic institutions capable of performing?**

This question aims to establish if democratic institutions exist and to what extent they perform their functions effectively and are free from extensive, counterproductive friction. Democratic institutions include national, regional and local governments, the parliament, the judiciary and the public administration.

Note: If “democratic” institutions are part of an authoritarian system, please explain briefly how they operate and elaborate on their potential for future democratization.

The ensemble of democratic institutions is effective and efficient. As a rule, political decisions are prepared, made, implemented and reviewed in legitimate procedures by the appropriate authorities.

10

9

8

Democratic institutions perform their functions in principle, but often are inefficient due to friction between institutions.

7

6

5

Democratic institutions exist, but they are unstable and ineffective.

4

3

2

There are no democratic institutions as such (authoritarian regime).

1

4.2

Commitment
to democratic
institutions**To what extent are democratic institutions accepted as legitimate by the relevant actors?**

The relevant actors are all individuals and organizations that are able to concentrate political power. This includes government bodies, political parties, associations, interest groups and civic organizations, as well as groups with potential veto powers, such as the military or the clergy.

All democratic institutions are accepted as legitimate by all relevant actors.

10

9

8

Most democratic institutions are accepted as legitimate by most relevant actors.

7

6

5

Only individual institutions are accepted, while influential actors hold vetoes. Acceptance remains unstable over time.

4

3

2

There are no democratic institutions as such (authoritarian regime).

1

Stable patterns of representation exist for mediating between society and the state; there is also a consolidated civic culture.

5.1

Party system

To what extent is there a stable and socially rooted party system able to articulate and aggregate societal interests?

To answer this question, please consider:

- the extent to which parties are socially rooted and organizationally institutionalized
- the degree of clientelism and the effects it has in promoting or inhibiting stability
- the fragmentation of the party system
- the level of polarization
- the degree of voter volatility

The party system is stable and socially rooted: it is able to articulate and aggregate societal interest with low fragmentation, low voter volatility and low polarization.

10

9

8

The party system is fairly stable and socially rooted: moderate fragmentation, moderate voter volatility and moderate polarization.

7

6

5

The party system is unstable with shallow roots in society: high fragmentation, high voter volatility and high polarization.

4

3

2

There is no party system to articulate and aggregate societal interest.

1

5.2

Interest groups

To what extent is there a network of cooperative associations or interest groups to mediate between society and the political system?

This question addresses the representation of societal interests in the political system. In evaluating the systemic nature and the quality of representative patterns, please consider:

- the spectrum of interest groups, ranging from social movements and community organizations to unions and professional associations
- the capacity to incorporate all (competing) social interests and to avoid the dominance of few strong interests
- the degree of cooperation between different interest groups

Make sure to mention if organized social, communicative and political power aims to undermine democracy or civil society (e.g., mobilization of ethnic or nationalist interests).

There is a broad range of interest groups that reflect competing social interests, tend to balance one another and are cooperative.

10

9

8

There is an average range of interest groups, which reflect most social interests. However, a few strong interests dominate, producing a latent risk of pooling conflicts.

7

6

5

There is a narrow range of interest groups, in which important social interests are underrepresented. Only a few players dominate, and there is a risk of polarization.

4

3

2

Interest groups are present only in isolated social segments, are on the whole poorly balanced and cooperate little. A large number of social interests remain unrepresented.

1

Stable patterns of representation exist for mediating between society and the state; there is also a consolidated civic culture.

5.3

Approval of democracy

How strong is the citizens' approval of democratic norms and procedures?

Please base your assessment on public opinion survey data, addressing the following factors:

- approval of the democratic system (often measured by agreement with the idea of democracy as the best form of government or the most preferred political system)
- approval of democratic performance (often measured by how democracy functions in practice or the satisfaction with the working of democracy)
- approval of democratic institutions (often measured by the level of trust in institutions such as parliaments, presidency, the legal system and police, the state bureaucracy, political parties, and the military)

Note: As the approval of democratic performance and institutions cannot be assessed in authoritarian systems, you should choose the N/A-option for autocracies.

Approval of democratic norms and procedures is very high.

10

9

8

Approval of democratic norms and procedures is fairly high.

7

6

5

Approval of democratic norms and procedures is fairly low.

4

3

2

Approval of democratic norms and procedures is very low.

1

No survey data available. And/or: Authoritarian regime.

N/A

5.4

Social capital

To what extent have social self-organization and the construction of social capital advanced?

This question aims to assess the level of trust between citizens, which fosters cooperation and mutual support for purposes of self-help, rather than primarily to further political objectives. Social capital may also be based on cultural patterns of interaction characterizing traditional societies.

Please indicate

- to what extent there is a sense of solidarity and trust among the citizens (as measured by public opinion surveys)
- to what extent there is a voluntary and autonomous organization of cultural, environmental or social associations.

There is a very high level of trust among the population and a large number of autonomous, self-organized groups, associations and organizations.

10

9

8

There is a fairly high level of trust among the population and a substantial number of autonomous, self-organized groups, associations and organizations.

7

6

5

There is a fairly low level of trust among the population. The small number of autonomous, self-organized groups, associations and organizations is unevenly distributed or spontaneous and temporary.

4

3

2

There is a very low level of trust among the population, and civic self-organization is rudimentary.

1

Market Economy

- 6 Level of Socioeconomic Development
- 7 Organization of the Market and Competition
- 8 Monetary and Fiscal Stability
- 9 Private Property
- 10 Welfare Regime
- 11 Economic Performance
- 12 Sustainability

To what extent are significant parts of the population fundamentally excluded from society due to poverty and inequality?

Poverty combined with inequality leads to serious social exclusion that fundamentally impedes participation in otherwise potentially functional market economies. This question aims to assess the level of social exclusion as a determining factor for economic transformation. It refers to structural exclusion and not to the output strength of a country's economy as reflected in macroeconomic data like unemployment or GDP growth (see indicator 11.1).

Please take the following factors into account:

- the overall level of socioeconomic development
- the poverty rate
- the level of inequality with regard to income and wealth
- the extent to which markers such as race, ethnicity, gender, place of residence etc. are excluding people from economic opportunity.
- the scope of subsistence economy (as an indicator for exclusion)

Whenever reliable data are available, your answer should combine quantitative indicators with qualitative explanation.

Quantitative Reference Indicators: Human Development Index (HDI) · Overall loss in HDI due to inequality
Poverty rate · Gini Index · Gender Inequality Index

Poverty and inequality are minor and not structurally ingrained.	10
	9
	8
Poverty and inequality are limited and barely structurally ingrained.	7
	6
	5
Poverty and inequality are pronounced and partly structurally ingrained.	4
	3
	2
Poverty and inequality are extensive and structurally ingrained.	1

There are clear rules for stable, market-based competition.

7.1

Market organization

To what level have the fundamentals of market-based competition developed?

The main focus of this question is to assess if free and fair competition is guaranteed by an institutional framework that ensures unrestricted participation in the market and a level playing field for all market participants.

Fundamentals of market-based competition comprise:

- no significant entry and exit barriers in product and factor markets (including licensing procedures and permit regulations; administrative barriers to market access)
- freedom to launch and withdraw investments (including foreign ownership barriers; access to capital)
- no discrimination based on ownership (state / private, foreign / local) and size (including the importance of public ownership in specific sectors and direct control over business enterprises)

Even though the role of the state is primarily to guarantee compliance with the rules, active or protective state engagement (industry policy) can prove beneficial to economic development, if it supports innovation and nascent markets and does not result in heavy state intervention and control of important market segments for clientelist purposes.

Please consider the size of the informal sector, as a large informal sector could indicate an inappropriate institutional framework of economic policy or an inefficient application of the rules. Please also mention if price setting is mainly determined by market forces and if cross-border labor and capital movement (including currency convertibility) is enabled.

Quantitative reference indicator: Informal employment

Market competition is consistently defined and implemented both macroeconomically and microeconomically. There are state-guaranteed rules for market competition with equal opportunities for all market participants. The informal sector is very small.

10

9

8

Market competition has a strong institutional framework, but the rules for market competition are not consistent or always uniform for all market participants. The informal sector is small.

7

6

5

Market competition operates under a weak institutional framework, with uneven rules for market participants. The informal sector is significant.

4

3

2

Market competition is present only in small segments of the economy and its institutional framework is rudimentary. Rules for market participants are unreliable and frequently set arbitrarily. The informal sector is large.

1

There are clear rules for stable, market-based competition.

7.2 Competition policy

To what extent do safeguards exist to protect competition, and to what extent are they enforced?

This question aims to assess whether antitrust or competition laws exist and are enforced against monopolization (e.g., mergers, dominant market positions, concentration) and cartelistic conduct (e.g., collusion, price fixing, predatory pricing).

Essential elements of an efficient protection of competition comprise:

- existence of an antitrust law with clear rules regarding combating cartels and collusion, abuse of market power and merger control regulation
- existence of an independent competition authority and membership in the international competition network (ICN)
- implementation of antitrust law, including transparency and legal certainty of decisions through guaranteed judicial procedures, no discrimination between domestic and foreign companies
- consistent role of the state, like a low importance of state subsidies, tax reliefs and sector- or firm-specific exemptions for clientelist purposes

Comprehensive competition laws to prevent monopolistic structures and conduct exist and are strictly enforced.	10
	9
	8
Competition laws to prevent monopolistic structures and conduct exist, but are enforced inconsistently.	7
	6
	5
Some regulation to prevent monopolistic structures and conduct exists, but is rarely enforced.	4
	3
	2
No legal or political measures are taken to prevent monopolistic structures and conduct.	1

7.3 Liberalization of foreign trade

To what extent has foreign trade been liberalized?

This question aims to assess the degree of openness of an economy towards foreign trade. Please focus your assessment on conditions, tariff and non-tariff measures for market access.

As the gap between the bound and applied “most favoured nation” (MFN) tariff rates is substantial in many developing countries, the simple average of the MFN applied total tariffs should be referred to. Please consult the WTO Tariff Profiles (https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/tariff_profiles_list_e.htm), which also grant information on the respective country’s WTO Membership Status.

Protectionist measures or limited market access resulting from non-tariff measures should also be discussed and might include the following aspects:

- import quotas and export limitations
- export subsidies and “countervailing duties” on allegedly subsidized imports
- contingency trade barriers (anti-dumping procedures, “safeguards” – restrictions of imports to protect a specific domestic industry from serious injury)

Foreign trade is widely liberalized, with uniform, low tariffs and few non-tariff barriers.	10
	9
	8
Foreign trade is liberalized in principle, but significant exceptions remain, including differentiated tariffs and privileged treatment for domestic sectors or industries.	7
	6
	5
Foreign trade follows non-discrimination principles in form, but is significantly distorted by state interference, special rules, tariff and non-tariff barriers, etc. The economy is integrated selectively into the world market.	4
	3
	2
Foreign trade is largely state-supervised or controlled. The economy is decoupled from the world market.	1

To what extent have a solid banking system and a functioning capital market been established?

International standards of banking systems are defined by the Basel Accords (www.bis.org). These standards require banks to hold a minimum share of capital equity in relation to their assets and to the risk the bank exposes itself to through its lending and investment practices. They also demand that banks undergo a supervisory review process, and that they disclose information about their economic activities.

A solid capital market is characterized by a past record of low shares of nonperforming loans, prudential requirements for bank transactions in foreign currency, enforcement of rules on disclosure, independence of financial regulators and hard budget constraints between companies, banks and the public sector.

Note: Please make sure you provide information on capital-adequacy ratios, disclosure rules, supervision, share of non-performing loans and hard budget constraints. You should also elaborate on reforms in the financial sector.

Quantitative Reference Indicators: Bank capital to assets ratio · Bank nonperforming loans

The banking system is solid and oriented toward international standards with functional banking supervision and minimum capital equity requirements. Capital markets are open to domestic and foreign capital with sufficient resilience to cope with sudden stops and capital flow reversals.	10 9
The banking system and capital market are differentiated and oriented in principle to international standards. However, there is a de facto lack of supervision, which contributes to increased vulnerability to sudden stops and capital flow reversals.	8 7 6
The banking system and capital market are poorly differentiated; regulation and supervision requirements are inadequate.	5 4 3
Banks are largely state-owned or state-controlled; there is no capital market.	2 1

To what extent does the monetary authority pursue and communicate a consistent monetary stabilization policy?

This question seeks to assess whether the control of monetary stability including foreign exchange-rate policies are in accordance with other goals of the government's economic policy. Please provide data on the volatility of inflation and foreign exchange rates.

When answering the question, please note the following aspects:

- Inflation control: Account should be taken not only of the absolute level of inflation and the effectiveness of inflation targeting, but also of inflation volatility over time, which in some cases may trigger greater uncertainty in expectations among economic players than the level of inflation itself.
- Exchange-rate policies: Account should be taken whether, in case of exchange rate targeting, the monetary authority (in most cases the central bank) is successful in defending the target by avoiding a strong divergence between the country's inflation rate and that of the anchor country or currency basket countries and by discouraging speculative attacks against the exchange rate target. When the local currency is not pegged to a foreign anchor currency or a currency basket, please assess whether flexible exchange rate policies were successful.
- The role of the monetary authority: Formal independence of the monetary authority has often not proven to be a sufficient guidepost in assessing the quality of monetary stabilization. Please focus your assessment on the de facto independence of the monetary authority, its communication with the actors in financial markets, and its cooperation and conflict resolution mechanisms with the government.

Quantitative Reference Indicators: Inflation (CPI) · Real effective exchange rate index

Policies of monetary stabilization are harmonized with other objectives of economic policy and are institutionalized in a de facto independent monetary authority, which consistently communicates with other economic actors.

10

9

8

Monetary stability is a recognized objective of economic policy, but has not been consistently pursued over time. The monetary authority's institutional independence is at times compromised, and it is prone to political influence.

7

6

5

Monetary stability is a component of the economic policy mix in principle, but it is subordinated to other objectives. The monetary authority is not capable to pursue monetary stabilization independently of the government.

4

3

2

The government is not willing or able to pursue monetary stabilization.

1

To what extent do the government's budgetary policies support fiscal stability?

This question seeks to assess whether the government is pursuing a stability oriented fiscal policy which includes medium-term objectives and measures for debt sustainability and fiscal consolidation, and potentially the establishment of a stabilization mechanism to reduce external vulnerability. Please provide data on the budget deficit and public debt.

Quantitative Reference Indicators: Current account balance · Public debt · External debt · Total debt service · Government consumption · Cash surplus or deficit · Total reserves

The government's budgetary policies promote fiscal stability, supported in part by institutional (self-)constraints.

10

9

8

The government's budgetary policies generally promote fiscal stability, but lack institutional safeguards and are prone to ad hoc permissive policy changes.

7

6

5

The government's budgetary policies are inconsistent and insufficient to promote fiscal stability.

4

3

2

The government does not implement any budgetary measures to promote fiscal stability.

1

9.1

Property rights

To what extent do government authorities ensure well-defined rights of private property and regulate the acquisition, benefits, use and sale of property?

Property rights and regulations on acquisition, benefits, use and sale are well defined and enforced. Property rights are limited, solely and rarely, by overriding rights of constitutionally defined public interest.

10

9

8

Property rights and regulations on acquisition, benefits, use and sale are well defined, but occasionally there are problems with implementation and enforcement under the rule of law.

7

6

Property rights and regulations on acquisition, benefits, use and sale are defined formally in law, but they are not implemented and enforced consistently nor safeguarded adequately by law against arbitrary state intervention or illegal infringements.

5

4

3

Property rights and regulations on acquisition, benefits, use and sale are not defined in law. Private property is not protected.

2

1

9.2

Private enterprise

To what extent are private companies permitted and protected? Are privatization processes conducted in a manner consistent with market principles?

Private companies are viewed institutionally as primary engines of economic production and are given functioning legal safeguards. The privatization of state companies proceeds consistently with market principles.

10

9

8

Private companies are viewed institutionally as important engines of economic production, but are at times insufficiently protected by existing legal safeguards. The privatization of state companies does not always proceed consistently with market principles.

7

6

Private companies are viewed institutionally as negligible for economic production. Though they can act freely in principle, they are not adequately protected by legal safeguards. The privatization of state companies serves clientelistic purposes.

5

4

3

Private companies are not protected or permitted by the state.

2

1

10.1

Social
safety nets**To what extent do social safety nets provide compensation for social risks?**

This question refers to social safety nets which compensate for the social risks of the capitalist economic system, such as unemployment or poverty, and which alleviate handicaps such as old age, illness or disability. In your answer, please make sure to comment on:

- the forms of compensation: cash and conditional cash transfers, subsidies, waivers, food programs, educational or empowerment initiatives
- the funding: tax, redistribution, pay-as-you-go, investment funds
- the structure of the welfare regime: public, private or both
- the coverage/inclusiveness of social safety nets (where applicable, please also comment on the access of non-citizens to social safety nets).

Note: In countries that do not provide comprehensive, state-funded welfare systems, social safety nets can refer to those arrangements that are functionally equivalent to formal compensation for social risks. Social safety nets may also comprise family, clan or village structures, if these structures can provide viable compensation on a broad scale for risks.

Social safety nets are comprehensive and compensate for social risks, especially nationwide health care and a well-focused prevention of poverty.

10

9

8

Social safety nets are well developed, but do not cover all risks for all strata of the population. A significant part of the population is still at risk of poverty.

7

6

5

Social safety nets are rudimentary and cover only few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries. The majority of the population is at risk of poverty.

4

3

2

Social safety nets do not exist. Poverty is combated hardly at all, or only ad hoc.

1

10.2

Equal
opportunity**To what extent does equality of opportunity exist?**

This question is directed at finding out to what extent individuals have equal access to participation in society regardless of their social background. This includes equal access to education, public office or employment. The denial of equal opportunity based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, race or political preference should be evaluated explicitly in your analysis as should be the scope and intensity of discrimination against non-citizens. Please comment both on the legal provisions and their implementation and enforcement.

Quantitative Reference Indicators: Literacy rate (female/male) · Ratio of female to male enrollment
Gross enrollment ratio · Female labor force

Equality of opportunity is achieved. Women and members of ethnic, religious and other groups have equal access to education, public office and employment. There is a comprehensive and effective legal and institutional framework for the protection against discrimination.

10

9

8

Equality of opportunity is largely achieved. Women and members of ethnic, religious and other groups have near-equal access to education, public office and employment. There are a number of legal provisions against discrimination, but their implementation is at times insufficient.

7

6

5

Equality of opportunity is only partially achieved. Women and/or members of ethnic, religious and other groups have limited access to education, public office and employment. There are some legal provisions against discrimination, but their implementation is highly deficient.

4

3

2

Equality of opportunity is not achieved. Women and/or members of ethnic, religious and other groups have only very limited access to education, public office and employment. There are no legal provisions against discrimination.

1

How robust is economic performance?

This question aims to assess the performance of the economy in relation to three key economic policy goals: stable economic growth, high employment levels and price stability. Please consider any potential trade-offs or synergies between these goals and evaluate whether:

- economic growth (GDP per capita) reflects steady and robust development, and identify the most dynamic sectors of the economy.
- employment levels indicate an inclusive economy with adequate opportunities for income generation and the expansion of the domestic market.
- inflation rates promote economic stability, encourage investment and preserve consumers' purchasing power.

Please analyze how the current account balance and levels of both foreign and domestic investment impact economic performance.

Additionally, please provide context for economic performance by considering factors such as volatility over time, demographic changes and economic diversification.

Quantitative Reference Indicators: GDP per capita growth · GDP per capita PPP · unemployment rate
inflation rate (CPI) · current account balance · foreign direct investment · gross capital formation

Economic performance is very strong. Indicators may include solid GDP per capita growth rates, high employment levels and stable prices.

10

9

8

Economic performance is fairly strong. Indicators may include weak GDP per capita growth rates, moderate levels of unemployment and generally stable prices.

7

6

5

Economic performance is fairly weak. Indicators may include stagnant GDP per capita growth rates, high levels of unemployment and unstable prices.

4

3

2

Economic performance is very weak. Indicators may include negative GDP per capita growth rates, very high unemployment levels and high inflation.

1

12.1

Environmental policy

To what extent are environmental concerns effectively taken into account?

This question seeks to assess the extent to which externalization of costs or inadequate time horizons are avoided or restrained by environmental regulation.

Please determine whether tax and energy policies take environmental goals and measures into account (e.g., promotion of renewable energies, CO₂ reduction goals). You should also establish whether the government sets incentives for environmentally sound consumption and investments to households and companies.

Please consider that a deeply engrained awareness of the environment or nature in society may serve as a functional equivalent.

Environmental concerns are effectively taken into account and are carefully balanced with growth efforts. Environmental regulation and incentives are in place and enforced.	10
	9
	8
Environmental concerns are taken into account but are occasionally subordinated to growth efforts. Environmental regulation and incentives are in place, but their enforcement at times is deficient.	7
	6
	5
Environmental concerns receive only sporadic consideration and are often subordinated to growth efforts. Environmental regulation is weak and hardly enforced.	4
	3
	2
Environmental concerns receive no consideration and are entirely subordinated to growth efforts. There is no environmental regulation.	1

12.2

Education policy/
R&D

To what extent are there solid institutions for basic, secondary and tertiary education, as well as for research and development?

This question seeks to assess:

- whether education policy is successful in delivering high-quality education and training
- whether research and development receive effective support from the government

When answering this question, your focus should not be on expenditures alone, but also on the quality and competitiveness of the education system and the research sector. Please also consider:

- the structure of funding and knowledge providers (public, private, international cooperation)
- the output of the educational and developmental efforts: enrollment rates, literacy rates, percentage of people with higher education, number of patent applications etc.

Please note that unequal access to education should be primarily discussed in indicator 10.2 (Equal Opportunity).

Quantitative Reference Indicators: UN Education Index · Public expenditure on education · R&D expenditure · Literacy rate

Education policy ensures a nationwide system of high-quality education and training, and the research and technology sector is dynamic and competitive. Investment in education and training is clearly above average (more than 6% of GDP) as is investment in research and development (more than 2.0% of GDP).	10
	9
	8
Education policy ensures a nationwide system of sound education and training, and the research and technology sector is fairly advanced. Investment in education and training is average (from 4% to 6% of GDP) as is investment in research and development (1.5% to 2.0% of GDP).	7
	6
	5
Education policy contributes to a system of education and training which is sub-standard, with qualitative deficits in secondary and tertiary education and insufficient school enrollment. Research and development is deficient. Investment in education and training is rather low (from 2% to 4% of GDP) as is investment in research and development (less than 1.5% of GDP).	4
	3
	2
There are only basic levels of institutions for education, training and R&D. School enrollment is low, and the illiteracy rate is high. Investment in education and training is very low (below 2% of GDP) as is investment in research and development (below 0.5% of GDP).	1

Governance

- 13 Level of Difficulty
- 14 Steering Capability
- 15 Resource Efficiency
- 16 Consensus-building
- 17 International Cooperation

13.1

Structural constraints

To what extent do structural difficulties constrain the political leadership's governance capacity?

Governance performance may be limited by structural constraints that do not result from the current political leadership's actions and cannot be overcome swiftly.

Constraints may include:

- extreme poverty
- the lack of an educated labor force
- a disadvantageous geographical location (e.g., landlocked or small island states)
- severe infrastructural deficiencies
- natural disasters
- pandemics

While the level of difficulty will also be calculated from three quantitative indicators reflecting structural constraints (Gross National Income p.c. at purchasing power parities; U.N. Education Index; mean of the BTI 2026 stateness and rule of law scores), you should describe the country-specific profile of structural constraints.

The structural constraints on governance are very high.

10

9

8

The structural constraints on governance are fairly high.

7

6

5

The structural constraints on governance are fairly low.

4

3

2

The structural constraints on governance are very low.

1

13.2

Civil society traditions

To what extent are there traditions of civil society?

Indicators of civil society traditions are:

- long-term presence of public or civic engagement
- a civic culture of participation in public life
- numerous and active civic associations
- social trust (social capital)

Traditions of civil society are very weak.

10

9

8

Traditions of civil society are fairly weak.

7

6

5

Traditions of civil society are fairly strong.

4

3

2

Traditions of civil society are very strong.

1

How serious are political, social, ethnic and religious conflicts?

Indicators of conflict intensity include the following:

- the confrontational nature of politics
- the polarization and split of society along one or several cleavages
- the mobilization of large groups of the population
- the use and spread of violence

Conflict intensity is very high. Fundamental political, social, ethnic or religious differences are fueling civil war or widespread violent conflict.

10

9

8

Conflict intensity is fairly high. Society and the political elite are deeply split into political camps, social classes, ethnic or religious communities. Confrontational mass mobilization is high and there are incidents of violence.

7

6

5

Conflict intensity is fairly low. While political, social, ethnic or religious differences are pronounced, political actors have only limited success in polarizing along existing cleavages. There are only few, if any, incidents of violence.

4

3

2

Conflict intensity is very low. Political, social, ethnic or religious differences are not pronounced.

1

To what extent does the government set and maintain strategic priorities?

This question seeks to assess:

- the political capability to take on a longer-term perspective and to maintain strategic priorities during periods of crisis and political deadlock
- the strategic capacity of the government to prioritize and organize its policy measures (gaining and organizing expertise, evidence-based policymaking, regulatory impact assessments, strategic planning units)

Strategic priority setting is to target social progress in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. If prioritization serves particularistic goals such as the preservation of power or clientelism, it is neither strategic nor long-term and should be given a lower score (as is indicated in the score level descriptions).

The focus should be on the executive, including the administration and the cabinet. Make sure to identify drivers of reform and defenders of the status quo, as political determination and institutional capacity may vary among different departments and ministries. Please also comment on how setting and maintaining strategic priorities might be constrained by government composition and by actors outside the government (e.g., powerful economic interests, lobbies, foreign governments, foreign donors).

The government sets strategic priorities and maintains them over extended periods of time. It has the capacity to prioritize and organize its policy measures accordingly.

10

9

8

The government sets strategic priorities, but sometimes postpones them in favor of short-term political benefits. It shows deficits in prioritizing and organizing its policy measures accordingly.

7

6

5

The government claims to be setting strategic priorities, but replaces them regularly with short-term interests of political bargaining and office seeking. Policy measures are rarely prioritized and organized.

4

3

2

The government does not set strategic priorities. It relies on ad hoc measures, lacks guiding concepts and reaps the maximum short-term political benefit.

1

14.2

Implementation

How effective is the government in implementing its own policies?

This question examines the extent to which the government has been able to achieve its own strategic priorities. The assessment should therefore center on the major policy priorities identified by a government and examine whether declared objectives could be realized or what hinders effective implementation.

The strategic priorities implemented are to target social progress in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. If implementation serves particularistic goals such as the preservation of power or clientelism, it should be given a lower score.

The focus should be on the executive including the administration and the cabinet. Make sure you identify drivers of reform and defenders of the status quo, as political determination and institutional capacity may vary among different departments and ministries.

The government is able to implement its policies effectively.

10

9

8

The government fails to implement some of its policies.

7

6

5

The government fails to implement many of its policies.

4

3

2

The government is not able to implement any of its policies.

1

14.3

Policy learning

How innovative and flexible is the government?

Innovation in policymaking often comes from learning. This learning extends beyond changes in policy outputs to include changes in the basic beliefs guiding policy formulation. Learning opportunities are provided by:

- learning from past experiences (effective monitoring and evaluation)
- observation and knowledge exchange (good practices, international cooperation)
- consultancy (academic experts and practitioners)

Flexibility refers to a government's ability to adapt to and take advantage of developmental opportunities inherent to a given political situation. Flexibility and learning allow governments to replace failed policies with innovative ones. If possible, provide empirical evidence on whether policy learning happens coincidentally or if there are institutionalized mechanisms that facilitate innovation and flexibility in policymaking.

Policy learning should serve the purpose of achieving social progress in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. The ability to enhance strategies aimed at particularistic goals such as the preservation of power or clientelism does not constitute good governance and should be given a lower score.

The government demonstrates a pronounced ability of complex learning. It acts flexibly and replaces failed policies with innovative ones.

10

9

8

The government demonstrates a general ability of policy learning, but its flexibility is limited. Learning processes inconsistently affect the routines and the knowledge foundation on which policies are based.

7

6

5

The government demonstrates little willingness or ability in policy learning. Policies are rigidly enforced, and the routines of policymaking do not enable innovative approaches.

4

3

2

The government demonstrates no willingness or ability in policy learning.

1

To what extent does the government make efficient use of available human, financial and organizational resources?

In assessing the government's resource efficiency, please focus on the executive, including the administration and the cabinet.

Please consider the following indicators:

Efficient use of government administrative personnel

- personnel expenses relative to the services offered by the state
- low number of politically motivated dismissals and new appointments of public servants
- competitive recruiting procedures protected against political influences

Efficient use of budget resources

- balanced state budget
- a manageable level of state debt
- effective and independent auditing
- transparent budget planning and implementation
- low deviation of actual budget expenditures from the associated planned expenditures

Efficient administrative organization

- public administration that enables effective management under criteria of professional rationality
- "responsible" decentralization (i.e., establishing local self-government with legal and financial autonomy), backed by arrangements for public review of the local administration's activities
- existence of procedures and institutions to reform and modernize the public administration

The government makes efficient use of all available human, financial and organizational resources.

10

9

8

The government makes efficient use of most available human, financial and organizational resources.

7

6

5

The government makes efficient use of only some of the available human, financial and organizational resources.

4

3

2

The government wastes all available human, financial and organizational resources.

1

To what extent can the government coordinate conflicting objectives into a coherent policy?

As many policies have conflicting objectives, reflect competing political interests and affect other policies, the government has to ensure that its overall policy is coherent.

Successful coordination should:

- assure that trade-offs between policy goals are well balanced
- introduce horizontal forms of coordination to mediate between different departments of the state administration
- ascribe responsibilities in a transparent manner to avoid the negligence of tasks, redundancies or friction between different government branches.

Various coordination styles—hierarchical-bureaucratic, informal-network, personalist, centralized, decentralized etc.—are possible and may be functionally equivalent. What matters is their impact on policy coherence.

The government coordinates conflicting objectives effectively and acts in a coherent manner.

10

9

8

The government tries to coordinate conflicting objectives, but friction, redundancies and gaps in task assignment are significant.

7

6

5

The government often fails to coordinate between conflicting objectives. Different parts of the government tend to compete among each other, and some policies have counterproductive effects on other policies.

4

3

2

The government fails to coordinate conflicting objectives. Its policies thwart and damage each other. The executive is fragmented into rival fiefdoms that counteract each other.

1

To what extent does the government successfully contain corruption?

Please elaborate whether adequate institutional arrangements exist to implement an anti-corruption policy and if they successfully contribute to an effective prosecution of corruption. In your answer, you should indicate if the government implements and monitors the following integrity mechanisms:

- auditing of state spending
- regulation of party financing
- citizen and media access to information
- accountability of officeholders including asset declarations, conflict of interest rules, codes of conduct
- transparent public procurement system

Note: Please be aware that the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International uses the data and information of indicators 3.3 and 15.3 for their assessments. To avoid circularity of assessments, please do not base your evaluation of the success of anti-corruption policy on the CPI.

The government is successful in containing corruption, and all integrity mechanisms are in place and effective.

10

9

8

The government is often successful in containing corruption. Most integrity mechanisms are in place, but some are functioning only with limited effectiveness.

7

6

5

The government is only partly willing and able to contain corruption, while the few integrity mechanisms implemented are mostly ineffective.

4

3

2

The government fails to contain corruption, and there are no integrity mechanisms in place.

1

The political leadership establishes a broad consensus on reform with other actors in society without sacrificing its reform goals.

16.1

Consensus on goals

To what extent do the major political actors agree on democracy and a market economy as strategic, long-term goals?

This question specifically seeks to assess the extent of normative agreement on the general goals of development and transformation. It reflects the experience that many successful transformations are based on agreements reached by reform-minded political actors together with old elites or potential opponents of reform.

Major political actors are parties, politicians, interest groups and economic actors with political clout, whose power and importance (e.g., number of voters, jobs, financial resources, authority, influence, etc.) are relevant to the course of the political process.

Please make sure to comment on the degree of consensus both with regard to democracy and with regard to a market economy. For that purpose, two separate response fields are offered in the database. Your written assessment should still be reflected in one single score. The maximum score for autocracies is 7 points.

All major political actors agree on establishing or consolidating democracy and a market economy as strategic, long-term goals of transformation.

10

9

8

The major political actors agree on one of the goals (democracy or market economy) as a strategic, long-term goal of transformation. Or: there is a general consensus on both goals, which is weakened by significant controversy over strategic priorities.

7

6

5

The major political actors are in conflict over both democracy and a market economy as strategic, long-term goals of transformation. Or: any proclaimed consensus on goals is rudimentary, very fragile and likely to be challenged by powerful actors.

4

3

2

There are no major political actors who want to establish democracy or a market economy.

1

16.2

Anti-democratic actors

To what extent can reformers exclude or co-opt anti-democratic actors?

This question seeks to assess the extent to which reformers are able to overcome anti-democratic veto actors:

- Reformers are defined here as all political actors who advocate democratization, be it in or close to the government or in opposition.
- Anti-democratic veto actors are defined as political actors who can cause democratization to stall or fail and might include the military, influential economic actors or powerful opposition groups.

A successful reform policy can eliminate the veto power of anti-democratic actors, induce them to comply permanently with constitutional rules, or develop a basic consensus with them.

Reformers can successfully exclude or co-opt all actors with anti-democratic interests.

10

9

8

Reformers cannot completely control all powerful anti-democratic actors, but can limit their influence significantly.

7

6

5

Reformers have little control over powerful anti-democratic actors, who can use their influence to severely disrupt the reform process.

4

3

2

Reformers have no control over anti-democratic actors.

1

The political leadership establishes a broad consensus on reform with other actors in society without sacrificing its reform goals.

16.3

Cleavage/conflict management

To what extent is the political leadership able to moderate cleavage-based conflict?

Please assess the extent to which the political leadership is able to establish as broad a consensus as possible across cleavages, depolarize structural conflicts, and/or prevent society from falling apart along these dividing lines.

Cleavages are significant and long-running divisions in society that are often, but not always, reflected in the political party system. Cleavages may be manifest in ethnic, class, political, regional or religious conflicts as well as those regarding national citizenship.

The political leadership depolarizes cleavage-based conflict and expands consensus across the dividing lines.	10
	9
	8
The political leadership prevents cleavage-based conflicts from escalating.	7
	6
	5
The political leadership does not prevent cleavage-based conflicts from escalating.	4
	3
	2
The political leadership exacerbates existing cleavages for populist or separatist purposes.	1

16.4

Public consultation

To what extent does the political leadership consult civil society actors in their plurality in policymaking?

This question asks whether the political leadership involves civil society actors in:

- agenda setting
- policy formulation
- deliberation and decision-making
- policy implementation
- performance monitoring

Civil society actors include civic, economic and professional interest associations, religious, charity and community-based organizations, intellectuals, scientists and journalists.

The political leadership is consistently pluralistic in consulting civil society actors, which it does on a regular basis. It gives them an important role in deliberating and determining policies.	10
	9
	8
The political leadership often consults civil society actors and takes the interests of most into account.	7
	6
	5
The political leadership rarely consults civil society actors and only takes into account those interests that are in line with its own policies.	4
	3
	2
The political leadership rejects civil society consultation and excludes its representatives from the political process.	1

The political leadership establishes a broad consensus on reform with other actors in society without sacrificing its reform goals.

To what extent can the political leadership bring about reconciliation between the victims and perpetrators of past injustices?

This question examines the extent to which a country's political leadership is able to address or overcome a conflict-laden past that is experienced as unjust, or at least to achieve moral justice for past acts of injustice. The goal of coping with the past is to obtain justice or reconciliation between former victims and perpetrators.

Note: In case a country has already achieved reconciliation prior to 2025, please elaborate briefly on the successfully concluded process.

The political leadership achieves reconciliation between the victims and the perpetrators of past injustices.

10

9

8

The political leadership recognizes the need to deal with historical acts of injustice, but its attempts for reconciliation encounter difficulties.

7

6

5

The political leadership does not address historical acts of injustice and does not initiate a process of reconciliation.

4

3

2

The political leadership manipulates memories of historical injustices as a weapon against political opponents.

1

There have been no major historical injustices committed, or reconciliation processes have been completed (by 2025).

N/A

The political leadership is willing and able to cooperate with external supporters and organizations.

To what extent does the political leadership use the support of international partners to implement a long-term strategy of development?

This question evaluates how the political leadership makes use of international assistance – major projects involving technical or personal cooperation – in its own development agenda. The focus here is on the ability to learn from international know-how, to adapt external advice to domestic realities and to integrate international assistance into a consistent, long-term strategy of development.

Questions to consider include:

- Does the government have clear aims of political and economic development?
- Is there a roadmap specifying steps to reach these aims and defining the inputs required from international partners?
- Have the political actors made progress in implementing such steps or do short-term expediencies, policy inconsistencies, perhaps even rent-seeking, dominate the use of international assistance?

The political leadership makes well-focused use of international assistance in order to implement its long-term strategy of development.

10

9

8

The political leadership uses international assistance for its own development agenda, but falters in devising a consistent long-term strategy capable of integrating this support effectively.

7

6

5

The political leadership uses international assistance for short-term expediencies and fails to devise a consistent long-term strategy.

4

3

2

The political leadership either uses international assistance for rent-seeking or considers any form of international cooperation as undesired political interference. There is no viable long-term development strategy.

1

The political leadership is willing and able to cooperate with external supporters and organizations.

To what extent does the government act as a credible and reliable partner in its relations with the international community?

This question addresses the level of confidence the government has been able to attain with the international community.

The international community includes multilateral or intergovernmental organizations, foreign governments and investors, bilateral and multilateral donors, and international NGOs.

Please base your assessment on how consistent and coherent a government has been in upholding its international commitments.

Considerations might include but are not limited to the following:

- compliance with existing international agreements (e.g., climate change agreements, ILO core labor standards, human rights conventions, trade and debt agreements, development agreements, arms control agreements, peace and cease-fire agreements)
- the reliable and trustworthy cooperation with the institutions or mechanisms that monitor compliance (e.g., International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice, UN Human Rights Council, WTO dispute settlement decisions).

The government acts as a credible and reliable partner. It frequently demonstrates initiative in advancing international cooperation efforts and actively contributes to them.

10

9

8

For the most part, the government acts as a credible and reliable partner. It shows notable engagement in international cooperation efforts.

7

6

5

The government rarely acts as a credible and reliable partner. It shows little engagement in international cooperation efforts.

4

3

2

The government repeatedly acts unreliably, and cooperating with the state entails major risks. The government does not contribute (and often undermines) international cooperation efforts.

1

To what extent is the political leadership willing and able to cooperate with neighboring countries?

This question seeks to assess the willingness and ability of the political leadership:

- to develop good neighborly relations
- to cooperate with neighbors in international and regional organizations
- to support regional or international integration.

The political leadership actively and successfully builds and expands cooperative neighborly and international relationships. It promotes regional and international integration.

10

9

8

The political leadership cooperates with many neighboring states and complies with the rules set by regional and international organizations.

7

6

5

The political leadership cooperates selectively or sporadically with individual neighboring states and is reluctant to accept the rules set by regional and international organizations.

4

3

2

The political leadership is uncooperative. It does not seek to build relations with neighbors and obstructs regional or international organizations.

1

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