

# Country Risk Classification

# Country Risk Classification

amfori BSCI

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**The Country Risk Classification relies on the Worldwide Governance Indicators. These determine the level of risks related to Governance in sourcing countries.**

## **Governance Indicators**

There are 6 dimensions of governance identified by the World Bank:

- 1.** Voice and Accountability (VA) – capturing perceptions of the extent to which a country's citizens are able to participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media.
- 2.** Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism (PV) – capturing perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism.
- 3.** Government Effectiveness (GE) – capturing perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies.
- 4.** Regulatory Quality (RQ) – capturing perceptions of the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development.
- 5.** Rule of Law (RL) – capturing perceptions of the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.
- 6.** Control of Corruption (CC) – capturing perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as "capture" of the state by elites and private interests.

Full interactive access to the aggregate indicators, and the underlying source data, is available at [www.govindicators.org](http://www.govindicators.org)

Worldwide Governance Indicators update incorporates revisions to data for previous years, and so this data release supersedes data from all previous releases.

The 2016 Worldwide Governance Indicators were published by the World Bank on 22 September, 2017, and extracted on the 16 October 2017 for use in this Country Risk Classification.

## Application

For the purpose of amfori BSCI, countries are classified into two different categories:

**Risk countries:** Countries with a WGI average rating between 0-60 or three or more individual dimensions rated below 60.

**Low-risk countries:** Countries with a WGI average rating higher than 60 and no more than two individual dimensions rated below 60.

An additional call-out is made for the 'Most Severe Risk Countries': countries with a WGI average rating below 3 or at least two individual dimensions rated below 1.

This classification supports amfori BSCI participants in their human rights' due diligence approach by helping them define their priorities for monitoring, capacity building and stakeholder engagement. An additional tool, the **Country Due Diligence tool**, is available to provide more specific information on sustainability issues, which are not reflected in the classification below.

It is up to each amfori BSCI participant to define its own due diligence approach. amfori shall not be held responsible for any action or omission deriving from the way amfori BSCI participants decide to use this classification.

## Validity

This Country Risk Classification version 2018 enters into force on 1 January 2018. It overrules BSCI list of risk countries version 1/2014 and will remain valid until any subsequent version is produced. All amfori BSCI audits conducted through the amfori BSCI Platform are relevant for the amfori BSCI Commitment Formula, regardless of the country classification.

## Risk Countries

	Overall Risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Afghanistan	7.7	21.18	0.95	9.62	7.21	3.85	3.4
Albania	50.1	51.72	55.24	52.40	60.58	39.42	41.3
Algeria	21.2	23.65	11.43	35.10	10.10	19.23	27.4
Angola	15.8	16.75	31.90	13.46	13.46	13.46	5.8
Argentina	49.9	65.52	53.81	60.58	33.65	39.90	46.2
Armenia	41.8	30.54	24.76	49.52	62.98	50.48	32.7
Azerbaijan	27.9	7.39	17.62	49.04	43.75	31.73	17.8
Bahrain	47.8	8.37	18.10	65.87	72.12	66.35	56.3
Bangladesh	23.5	31.03	10.48	25.48	22.12	30.77	21.2
Belarus	30.5	10.34	50.48	36.06	16.35	22.12	47.6
Belize	40.7	69.95	49.05	26.44	31.25	18.27	49.5
Benin	40.2	63.05	48.57	33.17	30.29	29.33	36.5
Bolivia	28.5	46.80	37.62	32.69	17.31	9.62	26.9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	40.2	40.89	32.86	37.98	48.56	43.75	37.0
Brazil	46.0	61.58	30.00	47.60	46.63	51.92	38.5
Bulgaria	58.5	59.61	47.14	65.38	73.56	53.85	51.4
Burkina Faso	37.4	48.77	15.24	34.62	37.98	34.13	53.4
Burundi	10.0	7.88	5.24	7.69	20.67	7.69	10.6
Cambodia	24.9	17.73	52.38	24.52	34.13	12.50	8.2
Cameroon	18.0	21.67	14.76	22.12	23.08	15.38	11.1
Central African Republic	7.6	18.72	7.14	2.88	5.77	1.92	9.1
Chad	8.5	12.32	10.95	6.25	9.62	7.21	4.8
China	40.2	6.90	27.14	67.79	44.23	46.15	49.0
Colombia	45.1	49.75	13.81	54.33	67.31	41.35	44.2
Comoros	24.5	39.41	46.67	5.29	12.50	11.54	31.7
Cuba	37.5	6.40	66.19	50.00	6.73	35.10	60.6
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6.8	10.84	4.29	5.77	7.69	4.33	7.7
Djibouti	21.1	12.81	23.81	16.83	25.48	17.31	30.3
Dominican Republic	45.6	52.22	57.14	43.75	53.37	44.71	22.6
East Timor	28.4	54.19	43.33	13.94	13.94	10.10	34.6
Ecuador	31.4	37.93	42.86	38.46	12.98	26.92	29.3
Egypt	22.8	14.29	9.05	27.88	17.79	35.58	32.2
El Salvador	43.3	55.17	44.76	42.79	57.21	26.44	33.2
Equatorial Guinea	10.1	1.97	39.05	6.73	6.25	6.73	0.0
Eritrea	6.7	0.99	17.14	3.37	1.44	5.77	11.5

Ethiopia	22.2	8.87	7.62	28.37	11.54	37.02	39.9
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	Overall Risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Fiji	51.5	46.31	73.81	43.27	39.42	44.23	62.0
Gabon	27.4	22.66	43.81	20.67	21.63	31.25	24.5
Gambia	23.2	13.79	27.62	19.23	31.73	25.00	22.1
Ghana	50.8	67.49	40.00	46.15	45.67	54.81	51.0
Greece	58.1	68.97	41.90	62.50	59.13	59.13	56.7
Guatemala	29.8	34.98	26.19	30.29	47.12	14.90	25.5
Guinea	19.1	26.11	30.95	14.90	19.23	8.65	14.9
Guinea Bissau	13.1	27.59	28.10	4.33	8.65	6.25	3.8
Guyana	44.7	56.16	46.19	41.83	36.54	42.31	45.2
Haiti	13.6	26.60	22.38	0.96	8.17	16.35	7.2
Honduras	26.8	33.50	33.81	23.08	30.77	12.02	27.9
India	45.2	58.62	14.29	57.21	41.35	52.40	47.1
Indonesia	44.8	50.25	33.33	53.37	50.00	38.94	42.8
Iran	23.1	11.33	20.48	45.67	9.13	25.96	26.0
Iraq	9.1	22.17	3.33	9.13	11.06	2.40	6.3
Ivory Coast	30.2	36.45	16.19	26.92	39.90	28.37	33.7
Jamaica	58.4	70.44	54.76	68.75	59.62	45.19	51.9
Jordan	48.5	25.12	26.67	58.65	54.33	62.02	64.4
Kazakhstan	36.6	13.30	47.62	51.44	51.92	34.62	20.7
Kenya	30.7	41.87	9.52	41.35	41.83	32.69	16.8
Kiribati	55.9	78.82	75.71	37.02	20.19	59.62	63.9
Kosovo	40.5	41.38	38.10	37.50	47.60	37.98	40.4
Kuwait	46.0	28.08	41.43	46.63	52.88	56.73	50.0
Kyrgyzstan	23.1	32.51	22.86	17.79	40.38	12.98	12.0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	28.4	4.43	62.38	39.42	24.52	24.04	15.4
Lebanon	24.8	31.53	8.10	35.58	40.87	18.75	13.9
Lesotho	41.5	47.78	37.14	20.19	38.46	47.60	57.7
Liberia	22.9	43.35	25.71	8.17	15.87	17.79	26.4
Libya	3.6	11.82	3.81	1.44	0.48	1.44	2.9
Macedonia	47.3	38.42	32.38	56.25	68.27	41.83	46.6
Madagascar	24.5	37.44	31.43	10.58	25.96	25.48	16.3
Malawi	33.1	48.28	45.24	22.60	19.71	38.46	24.0
Maldives	37.7	25.62	60.00	40.87	34.62	36.06	28.8
Mali	24.2	39.90	8.57	15.87	28.37	22.60	29.8
Marshall Islands	49.4	89.66	80.48	4.81	14.42	50.96	55.8
Mauritania	22.6	24.63	20.95	21.15	24.04	23.08	21.6

	Overall Risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Mexico	40.7	43.84	20.00	59.62	64.42	33.17	23.1
Micronesia (Federated States of)	59.1	85.71	89.05	39.90	14.90	52.88	72.1
Moldova	34.8	45.81	36.19	29.81	50.48	32.21	14.4
Mongolia	53.1	60.10	73.33	50.48	52.40	46.63	35.6
Montenegro	54.7	49.26	50.95	57.69	62.50	53.37	54.3
Morocco	43.8	29.06	35.71	50.96	45.19	49.04	52.9
Mozambique	20.7	33.99	12.38	18.75	25.00	15.87	18.3
Myanmar	21.7	24.14	23.33	16.35	18.75	16.83	30.8
Nauru	41.9	64.04	64.76	25.00	38.94	20.67	38.0
Nepal	24.1	38.92	19.05	19.71	23.56	19.71	23.6
Nicaragua	28.9	30.05	39.52	24.04	32.21	30.29	17.3
Niger	27.5	34.48	11.90	31.25	26.44	29.81	31.3
Nigeria	16.8	35.96	6.67	12.50	18.27	13.94	13.5
North Korea	5.7	0.00	21.90	3.85	0.00	3.37	5.3
Oman	59.7	20.20	71.90	61.54	72.60	65.38	66.3
Pakistan	20.9	28.57	1.43	28.85	27.40	20.19	19.2
Palau	59.7	90.15	80.48	38.94	48.08	62.50	38.0
Panama	57.5	65.02	60.48	61.06	66.35	56.25	36.1
Papua New Guinea	29.3	52.71	29.05	23.56	29.81	24.52	15.9
Paraguay	36.1	45.32	53.33	21.63	42.31	28.85	25.0
Peru	48.6	55.67	40.95	48.56	69.71	33.65	43.3
Philippines	39.5	50.74	10.00	51.92	53.85	36.54	34.1
Republic of the Congo	14.9	17.24	25.24	12.02	10.58	14.42	9.6
Romania	59.6	63.55	55.71	48.08	70.67	61.54	58.2
Russia	25.5	15.27	16.67	44.23	37.02	21.15	18.8
Rwanda	51.4	14.78	45.71	58.17	57.69	57.69	74.5
Sao Tome and Principe	40.8	60.59	54.29	25.96	21.15	27.40	55.3
Saudi Arabia	47.1	3.94	28.57	63.46	55.77	67.79	63.0
Senegal	47.4	57.64	36.67	36.54	49.04	47.12	57.2
Serbia	51.3	53.20	48.10	55.77	54.81	50.00	45.7
Seychelles	61.4	51.23	69.52	67.31	44.71	58.65	76.9
Sierra Leone	25.3	42.36	40.48	10.10	16.83	21.63	20.2
Solomon Islands	40.1	62.56	62.86	15.38	15.38	40.38	43.8
Somalia	1.3	2.96	2.86	0.48	0.96	0.00	0.5
South Africa	59.3	67.98	42.38	64.90	62.02	58.17	60.1
South Sudan	2.5	5.42	1.90	0.00	2.88	2.88	1.9

	<b>Overall Risk</b>	<b>Voice and Accountability</b>	<b>Political Stability &amp; Absence of Violence</b>	<b>Government Effectiveness</b>	<b>Regulatory Quality</b>	<b>Rule of Law</b>	<b>Control of Corruption</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>
Sri Lanka	48.5	42.86	49.52	44.71	51.44	54.33	48.1
Sudan	4.7	3.45	2.38	7.21	4.81	9.13	1.4
Suriname	46.6	61.08	56.19	40.38	27.88	49.52	44.7
Swaziland	30.4	9.36	29.52	33.65	29.33	40.87	39.4
Syria	1.8	1.48	0.00	1.92	3.85	0.96	2.4
Tajikistan	12.3	4.93	19.52	14.42	12.02	10.58	12.5
Tanzania	35.5	40.39	30.48	34.13	35.58	37.50	35.1
Thailand	43.2	20.69	15.71	66.35	60.10	55.29	40.9
Togo	27.1	32.02	38.57	12.98	22.60	27.88	28.4
Tonga	54.6	69.46	78.57	42.31	37.50	60.58	38.9
Trinidad and Tobago	56.5	66.01	56.67	62.98	56.73	48.08	48.6
Tunisia	43.0	56.65	13.33	45.19	33.17	55.77	53.8
Turkey	41.7	29.56	5.71	54.81	61.06	48.56	50.5
Turkmenistan	9.7	0.49	34.76	11.54	1.92	5.29	4.3
Tuvalu	58.8	83.74	97.14	17.31	28.85	66.83	58.7
Uganda	30.9	27.09	21.43	32.21	46.15	45.67	13.0
Ukraine	27.4	47.29	6.19	31.73	36.06	23.56	19.7
Uzbekistan	15.5	2.46	34.29	30.77	4.33	11.06	10.1
Vanuatu	52.4	70.94	64.29	18.27	43.27	62.98	54.8
Venezuela	8.2	18.23	12.86	8.65	2.40	0.48	6.7
Vietnam	41.4	9.85	51.43	52.88	35.10	57.21	41.8
West Bank	33.5	16.26	4.76	29.33	55.29	42.79	52.4
Yemen	3.3	5.91	0.48	2.40	5.29	4.81	1.0
Zambia	39.0	35.47	52.86	27.40	32.69	43.27	42.3
Zimbabwe	12.5	19.70	24.29	11.06	3.37	8.17	8.7



## Low Risk Countries

	Overall Risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Andorra	89.9	87.68	97.14	97.60	78.37	90.87	87.5
Antigua and Barbuda	71.8	68.47	87.62	64.42	65.38	69.71	75.0
Aruba	88.1	92.61	94.29	76.92	88.94	87.02	88.9
Australia	92.4	94.09	81.90	92.31	97.60	95.19	93.3
Austria	89.4	93.10	72.86	91.83	91.35	95.67	91.3
Barbados	80.3	84.73	81.43	81.73	68.75	76.92	88.0
Belgium	85.5	95.57	61.43	86.54	88.46	88.94	92.3
Bhutan	62.7	44.83	82.86	70.19	26.92	68.27	83.2
Botswana	73.5	59.11	90.00	70.67	70.19	70.67	80.3
Brunei	69.2	23.15	93.81	81.25	71.15	73.08	72.6
Canada	95.1	96.06	93.33	95.19	94.23	96.63	95.2
Cape Verde	66.3	78.33	77.14	56.73	42.79	63.46	79.3
Cayman Islands	76.8	62.07	91.90	85.10	75.96	76.44	69.2
Chile	79.5	76.85	63.81	79.33	89.90	84.62	82.2
Costa Rica	72.2	85.22	70.48	66.83	67.79	67.31	75.5
Croatia	66.1	64.53	68.10	69.71	65.87	65.87	62.5
Cyprus	77.1	82.76	65.71	78.37	82.69	75.48	77.9
Czech Republic	79.4	80.79	83.33	79.81	80.77	84.13	67.8
Denmark	93.5	98.03	74.76	99.04	92.31	97.60	99.0
Dominica	71.0	75.86	90.95	55.29	61.54	72.12	70.2
Estonia	84.1	88.67	68.57	82.69	93.27	86.54	84.6
Finland	95.3	99.01	80.95	96.63	96.63	99.04	99.5
France	79.9	82.27	44.29	89.90	83.17	89.42	90.4
French Guiana	83.6	92.61	65.24	84.13	90.87	87.50	81.3
Georgia	63.1	53.69	35.24	71.15	81.25	63.94	73.6
Germany	90.2	94.58	70.95	94.23	96.15	91.35	93.8
Greenland	89.2	92.61	100.00	75.48	87.98	94.71	84.1
Grenada	67.6	73.40	87.62	47.12	56.25	71.63	69.7
Hong Kong	85.3	54.68	74.29	98.08	99.52	93.27	91.8
Hungary	66.4	57.14	69.05	69.23	71.63	70.19	61.1
Iceland	92.3	95.07	96.19	90.38	86.54	89.90	95.7
Ireland	89.4	93.60	76.67	88.46	94.71	90.38	92.8
Israel	71.7	71.92	18.57	88.94	87.50	81.25	81.7
Italy	67.5	79.31	58.10	71.63	75.00	61.06	59.6
Japan	88.2	77.83	86.19	95.67	90.38	88.46	90.9
Jersey, Channel Islands	87.8	92.61	95.24	86.06	74.52	94.71	83.7

	Overall Risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Latvia	74.0	74.38	59.52	78.85	83.65	80.29	67.3
Liechtenstein	93.1	87.19	98.57	93.75	89.42	92.79	96.6
Lithuania	78.2	76.35	71.43	82.21	84.62	81.73	73.1
Luxembourg	95.4	96.55	97.62	93.27	93.75	93.75	97.6
Macao	79.9	44.33	98.10	85.10	95.67	77.88	78.4
Malaysia	61.2	33.00	50.00	75.96	75.48	71.15	61.5
Malta	83.1	88.18	89.52	77.40	85.10	82.21	76.0
Mauritius	77.6	73.89	88.57	77.88	82.21	77.40	65.4
Namibia	62.7	66.50	70.00	60.10	49.52	64.42	65.9
Netherlands	93.8	98.52	77.62	96.15	98.56	97.12	94.7
New Zealand	98.4	97.04	99.05	97.12	99.04	98.08	100.0
Norway	96.7	100.00	91.43	98.56	92.79	99.52	98.1
Poland	73.3	72.41	63.33	73.56	79.81	74.52	76.4
Portugal	83.7	86.21	88.10	85.58	76.44	85.10	80.8
Puerto Rico	68.5	58.13	72.38	68.27	79.33	74.04	59.1
Qatar	66.6	15.76	76.19	74.52	74.04	79.33	79.8
Saint Kitts and Nevis	68.6	81.77	67.14	59.13	66.83	68.75	68.3
Saint Lucia	69.5	83.25	75.24	53.85	64.90	69.23	70.7
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	72.1	80.30	87.62	62.02	63.94	64.90	74.0
Samoa	71.4	71.43	92.38	72.60	50.96	75.96	64.9
Singapore	88.3	36.95	99.52	100.00	100.00	96.15	97.1
Slovakia	72.6	75.37	66.67	76.44	78.85	75.00	63.5
Slovenia	79.7	77.34	83.81	83.65	73.08	82.69	77.4
South Korea	72.8	67.00	51.90	80.77	84.13	86.06	66.8
Spain	76.3	81.28	61.90	83.17	81.73	80.77	68.8
Sweden	95.4	99.51	82.38	94.71	97.12	100.00	98.6
Switzerland	97.6	97.54	95.71	99.52	98.08	98.56	96.2
Taiwan	83.3	79.80	79.05	89.42	87.02	85.58	78.8
The Bahamas	72.2	74.88	78.10	74.04	63.46	60.10	82.7
United Arab Emirates	69.9	19.21	60.95	90.87	80.29	79.81	88.5
United Kingdom	87.3	90.64	59.05	92.79	95.19	91.83	94.2
United States	84.7	84.24	58.57	91.35	91.83	92.31	89.9
Uruguay	80.4	86.70	90.48	73.08	69.23	73.56	89.4

## Incomplete Risk Classification Ratings

A total of six (6) countries could not be assigned with an updated Risk Classification Rating, as no data is available for Voice and Accountability (VA).

	Overall Risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Anguilla	no data	no data	94.76	87.98	78.37	51.44	87.5
Bermuda	no data	no data	85.24	87.98	78.37	78.85	87.5
Guam	no data	no data	67.62	64.42	58.65	83.65	87.5
Martinique	no data	no data	85.24	75.00	86.06	78.85	87.5
Réunion	no data	no data	57.62	80.29	86.06	83.65	71.6
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	no data	no data	85.24	87.98	78.37	72.60	71.6

## Netherlands Antilles

The Netherlands Antilles was dissolved on October 10th, 2010 and will therefore no longer be listed.

## Most Severe Risk Countries

Most Severe Risk Countries are countries with WGI average rating below 3 or at least two individual dimensions rated below 1.

	Overall Risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
North Korea	5.7	0.00	21.90	3.85	0.00	3.37	5.3
Somalia	1.3	2.96	2.86	0.48	0.96	0.00	0.5
South Sudan	2.5	5.42	1.90	0.00	2.88	2.88	1.9
Syria	1.8	1.48	0.00	1.92	3.85	0.96	2.4
Yemen	3.3	5.91	0.48	2.40	5.29	4.81	1.0

amfori BSCI participants sourcing directly or indirectly from these countries may be exposed to human right violation's risk. At the same time, the extremely poor governance indicators in these countries may unable amfori BSCI participants to pursue reasonable due diligence. Monitoring, capacity building or stakeholders' engagement may be impossible or compromised in these countries. Nevertheless, amfori BSCI participants should aim at:

- ✦ Assessing any direct or indirect business linkages with severe risk countries (e.g. for specific commodities or product components)
- ✦ Requesting amfori Secretariat for policy and stakeholders' engagement support

## Risk Classification Changes

Several countries have seen changes in the overall rating, five (5) of them changing from Risk to Low Risk and one (1) from Low Risk to Risk.

Please find more details below per country, and some explanation as to what could have influenced this change.

### Countries which have changed from Risk to Low Risk

Bhutan  
Georgia  
Malaysia  
Namibia Samoa

#### Bhutan

- ✦ In 2015, the government continued to make progress in implementing public transparency and anticorruption initiatives, including prosecutions against public officials accused of graft.
- ✦ A 2015 survey of 119 current and former Bhutanese journalists revealed general concerns about press freedom and access to information, as well as safety issues and fear of reprisals in connection with reporting that is critical of the government or other powerful groups.
- ✦ Since 2007, Bhutan has moved decisively toward a system based on the rule of law, and its judiciary is now considered generally autonomous.
- ✦ A right to information law passed by the National Assembly puts the onus on government officials and agencies to release information.

#### Georgia

- ✦ In the 2016 elections, which were found to be competitive and largely fair by observers, Georgian Dream dominated and captured a supermajority. Also, the new legislature announced intentions to conduct fundamental constitutional reform.
- ✦ The president of the Constitutional Court complained of undue pressure and blackmail by government actors seeking particular outcomes in high-profile cases in 2016.
- ✦ Media are relatively free from censorship and direct political control, and the media environment has become significantly more pluralistic in recent years. However, in 2015: Law against the incitement to violence criminalizing any form of expression that causes discord and poses an “obvious, direct, and substantive threat”, which could be used to curtail freedoms of speech and the press.
- ✦ The level of corruption has been reduced in recent years, but Parliament has limited oversight capabilities, and existing anticorruption bodies remain inefficient. The majority of state agencies have no mechanisms for the protection of whistleblowers, and anti-corruption mechanisms tend to be under political influence.
- ✦ Executive and legislative interference in the judiciary remains a substantial problem, although judicial transparency and accountability have improved in recent years. Law on Personal Data Protection 2015: enables security services to conduct electronic surveillance with permission from the judiciary and a specially appointed inspector. It grants the government excessive access to data without requiring permission for monitoring internet data.
- ✦ In 2015, the Constitutional Court ruled that pretrial detentions must not exceed the constitutional limit of nine months.
- ✦ Protections for property rights remain weak. But hundreds of complaints of illegal confiscation of private property have been filed in recent years.
- ✦ Georgia is a source, destination, and transit country for human trafficking linked to sexual exploitation and forced labour. However, the government enhanced the resources and capacity of bodies devoted to the issue in 2015. As a result, the government investigated 16 new cases in 2016, and the Trafficking in Persons Council (TIP) created an NGO working group to further integrate NGOs in anti-trafficking efforts.

#### Malaysia

- ✦ Press freedom violations continue, including the shutdown of independent news site The Malaysian Insider in March after the government ordered one of its reports to be blocked. Also, free expression faces a range of restrictions, many of which have recently spread to the internet.

- ✦ Prime Minister Najib Razak struggled during 2015 to suppress mounting criticism over mismanagement of and possible embezzlement from the state-owned development fund 1MDB. Najib denied any wrongdoing and took steps to remove potential threats within the ruling party, in part through a reorganization of his cabinet.
- ✦ In 2015, a coalition of civil society organizations and opposition parties known as Bersih organized a multicity protest in August, calling for Prime Minister Najib's resignation as well as electoral reforms and anticorruption measures. The campaign continued in 2016, although Bersih leaders were subsequently charged for organizing what the authorities said was an illegal demonstration.
- ✦ In December 2015, federal lawmakers approved a redelineation of districts in the state of Sarawak despite opposition complaints that it heavily favoured the ruling party's traditional voting blocs.
- ✦ Government favouritism and blurred distinctions between public and private enterprises create conditions conducive to corruption. Officials regularly move back and forth between the private and public sectors, fostering opportunities for collusion and graft.
- ✦ Judicial independence is compromised by extensive executive influence, arbitrary or politically motivated verdicts are common.
- ✦ Muslims are subject to Sharia (Islamic law), the interpretation of which varies regionally, and the constitution's Article 121 stipulates that all matters related to Islam should be heard in Sharia courts.
- ✦ Allegations of torture and abuse, including deaths, in police custody continue to be reported.

### **Namibia**

- ✦ The National Assembly and presidential elections in November were considered free and fair, the ruling party, SWAPO, won 80 per cent of the votes.
- ✦ SWAPO dominated regional and municipal elections held in November 2015 and now holds 40 of 42 seats in the upper house.
- ✦ Corruption remains a problem and investigations of major cases proceed slowly. The Anti-Corruption Commission has considerable autonomy, reporting only to the National Assembly, though it lacks prosecutorial authority. SWAPO's dominance of the political space has resulted in a conflation between party and state, somewhat hampering anticorruption efforts.
- ✦ According to the U.S. State Department's 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report, Namibia remains a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking for forced labour and prostitution.

### **Samoa**

- ✦ General elections were held in 2016, whereby the Human Rights Protection Part achieved to regain the absolute majority, there is currently no official opposition party.
- ✦ Constitution Amendment Act 2013: a minimum of 10 % of seats in parliament were reserved for women, first applied in the 2016 elections.
- ✦ Citizenship Investment Act 2015: Allows foreign nationals to obtain permanent residency or citizenship in exchange for a large investment in the country.
- ✦ In 2015, the Ombudsman's Office submitted its first human rights report to Parliament, calling for better safeguards for equality and respect for women, children, persons with disabilities, and prisoners.
- ✦ Media Council Bill 2015: Media council was established to enforce codes of ethics and investigate public complaints, order media outlets to make corrections, public apologies, and monetary reparations.
- ✦ Corruption remains a major problem. A 2014 parliamentary report found instances of corruption and mismanagement in government agencies, but in early 2015 the government dismissed the majority of its findings and recommendations.

## **Countries which have changed from Low Risk to Risk**

### **Greece**

- ✦ SYRIZA won the snap elections in January 2015, then seeking to renegotiate the onerous terms of bailout loans the country had agreed to in 2010 and 2012, but Greece's creditors still refused to make major concessions even after a

negative plebiscite on the most recent proposal Greece had received from its lenders. With the country on the brink of financial

collapse, the Tsipras government accepted creditors' tough terms for a \$96 billion debt relief package in August, rather than risk being forced out of the eurozone.

- ✦ Facing a split within SYRIZA due to party members rejecting the debt deal, Tsipras called snap elections, which took place in September. SYRIZA once again won the vote and formed a coalition with ANEL, and Tsipras returned as prime minister.
  - ✦ In 2015, more than 850,000 migrants arrived in Greece, most of them attempting to make their way to other EU countries. The influx of refugees created a human crisis, and the resources of the Greek state remain insufficient for accommodating such a large population. In March 2016, the agreement between the EU and Turkey limited the number of new refugees and migrants entering the country during the year, but Macedonia's decision the same month to close its southern border left a substantial number stranded in Greece. As a result, immigrant detention centres, as well as prisons, suffer from overcrowding.
- ✦ While tax enforcement efforts have become more robust in recent years, corruption remains a problem in Greece, with tax evasion representing a serious challenge for the government.

### **Countries which have seen a significant change in rating, but have not changed classification**

Brazil  
Myanmar  
Turkey

#### **Brazil**

- ✦ Since 2014, a high inflation rate and growing unemployment have characterized Brazil's worst economic recession in more than two decades.
- ✦ In 2014, the Petrobrás bribery investigation began. As so far confirmed by investigators, for at least the last decade, some of the country's largest construction companies paid billions of dollars to politicians (including former president Lula da Silva), political parties, and Petrobrás executives in order to land lucrative contracts with the oil producer at inflated prices.
- ✦ In August 2016, the Senate voted to impeach President Dilma Rousseff – after she was suspended from presidential powers by legislators in May – on charges of budgetary manipulation, finding that she had committed the offense in an effort to hide Brazil's economic problems. She was replaced by Michel Temer for the remainder of her term. Rousseff's impeachment prompted heightened scrutiny over judicial independence.
- ✦ Temer's own low approval ratings and divisive politics further hinder efforts to ease parliamentary tensions and garner support for much-needed reforms in the face of the economic crisis. In June 2017, Temer himself was charged with corruption.
- ✦ Large, mostly peaceful protests took place on several occasions. Protesters marched for or against Rousseff's impeachment, as well as against the National Congress, corruption in general, and controversial preparations for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Police met some protests with violence, using tear gas and rubber bullets.
- ✦ In June 2016, president Temer converted the National Controller's Office (CGU), an important resource for appealing denials of information requests, into a new Ministry of Transparency, Monitoring, and Oversight. This move is considered detrimental to the independence of the country's freedom of information mechanism.
- ✦ Slavery-like working conditions pose a significant problem in rural zones, and increasingly in urban ones as well. A 2012 constitutional amendment allows the government to confiscate all property of landholders found to be using slave labour.

#### **Myanmar**

- ✦ The Rohingya, a Muslim minority in Rakhine State, have faced harsh restrictions for decades, including limits on family size and the ability and right to marry. Hundreds of Rohingya remain imprisoned nowadays for dubious offenses. In 2015, the president of Myanmar issued a decree revoking the Rohingyas' temporary identification cards, or "white cards," leading to disenfranchisement and loss of citizenship rights. In August 2016, the NLD government created a joint advisory panel to help develop conflict-resolution mechanisms to address tensions between Buddhists and Muslims, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid there, among other tasks. However, the measure was not successful. As a response to the

latest tensions, the military started “clearance operations”, burning dozens of Rohingya villages and killing unarmed people. Therefore, by November 2017 about 620 thousand Rohingyas have fled from Myanmar, seeking refuge in refugee camps in Bangladesh, where living conditions remain disastrous. Although on November 23, Bangladesh signed a deal with Myanmar to return the Rohingyas, the large majority of them is terrified of being sent back.

- ✦ In the 2015 parliamentary elections, the National League for Democracy (NLD) gained an overwhelming victory. The elections were considered mostly free and credible. The ruling Union and Solidarity Development Party (USDP) and military representatives accepted the results, setting the stage for a peaceful transfer of political power.
- ✦ In March 2016, Htin Kyaw, the NLD’s presidential candidate, was elected President.
- ✦ In April 2016, the parliament installed NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi in the newly created post of state counsellor.
- ✦ The new NLD government took modest steps to address the problem of corruption. In April, Aung San Suu Kyi issued an official regulation banning civil servants from accepting gifts worth more than 25,000 kyat (\$21).
- ✦ Though the NLD has begun to lay out plans for policy changes among its various ministry portfolios, the military remains a dominant force in policymaking, particularly through its constitutional control over the Defense, Home Affairs, and Border Affairs Ministries.
- ✦ In 2016, there was a notable increase in the number of defamation cases brought against journalists and social media users, some of which were initiated in response to criticism of government or military authorities. General surveillance by local security officials, under the purview of the military-controlled Home Affairs Ministry, remains a common practice.
- ✦ In April 2016, a court ordered the release of 69 students who had been arrested the previous year on unlawful assembly charges, and in October, the government repealed the Emergency Provisions Act, which the military government had frequently employed to jail political activists. Government representatives also made efforts to engage with civil society groups, in particular by holding consultations regarding the implementation of laws on NGO registration.

## Turkey

- ✦ The most recent elections were in November 2015. They were called by President Erdoğan after no party won a majority in June 2015 elections and a coalition government could not be formed. In the November vote, the AKP won 49 percent of the ballots and 317 seats, giving it a clear parliamentary majority. Many reports cited irregularities in the electoral process.
- ✦ In July 2015, anti-government forces in the Turkish military moved to overthrow the elected government, failing eventually, thanks in part to massive civilian demonstrations. President Erdoğan claimed that Islamic preacher Fethullah Gülen was the mastermind behind the attack on the government.
- ✦ Consequently, the government declared a state of emergency, allowing President Erdoğan to rule by decree and derogate constitutional protections. Over 150,000 soldiers, judges, police, civil servants, academics, and teachers were detained by authorities or dismissed from their jobs; moreover, media outlets and civic organizations were closed. The state of emergency has been extended several times until now, raising serious concerns about accountability, civil liberties, and the rule of law.
- ✦ A constitutional amendment signed in June 2016 facilitated the removal of lawmakers’ parliamentary immunity, exposing numerous deputies from the HDP and the secularist opposition Republican Peoples’ Party (CHP) to prosecution. In November, 12 HDP deputies, including the party’s two coleaders, were arrested for refusing to give testimony in an investigation of alleged “terrorist propaganda.”
- ✦ In April 2017, a constitutional referendum was held, transforming Turkey from a parliamentary democracy to a presidential republic. The amendments included, i.a.:
  - The abolition of the post of prime minister. The president will appoint the cabinet and will have a number of vicepresidents. Parliament will no longer oversee the ministers as their power to initiate a motion of no confidence will be removed.
  - The president will no longer have to be neutral, but will be able to maintain an affiliation to his political party. In May 2017, Erdogan became head of the AKP again.
  - The president will be able to appoint four out of 13 judges to the highest judicial board in the country.
- ✦ Corruption—including money laundering, bribery, and collusion in the allocation of government contracts—remains a major problem. In April 2016, Transparency International released a report highlighting the poor implementation of measures to combat corruption, and ineffective checks on power holders.



- ✦ A cease-fire with the PKK ended in July 2015, leading to guerrilla attacks and intense urban fighting in the southeast. According to Amnesty International, by the end of 2016 over 500,000 people had been displaced due to fighting in Kurdish-majority regions. Turkey has also suffered from several terrorist attacks attributed to IS.
- ✦ The number of refugees in Turkey has reached over 3.4 million by October 2017, making Turkey the largest refugee host country in the world. About 90% of Syrian refugees in Turkey remain outside of camp settings with limited access to basic services. Syrian and other migrants have been subjected to sex trafficking. In February 2016, the government moved to increase criminal penalties for trafficking in persons. Moreover, child labour and forced labour are wide spread among refugees, especially in the garment sector.
- ✦ Union activity, including the right to strike, remains limited by law and in practice, and anti-union activities by employers are common.

## Seychelles

Seychelles has a rating of 61.4, but remains listed as a Risk country, as three individual dimensions have rated below 60 (Voice and Accountability, Regulatory Quality and Rule of Law).

- ✦ In late 2014, the National Assembly adopted a new election law that entered into force in May 2015. Key changes included the introduction of year-round voter registration, greater transparency surrounding the register itself, and a provision for voting by citizens living abroad. Moreover, in April 2016, the National Assembly approved a constitutional amendment that limits the presidential term to two five-year mandates.
- ✦ In the presidential election in December 2015, ruling president James Michel was re-elected by a margin of only 193 votes, leading opposition leader Wavel Ramkalawan to challenge the results in court. In December 2016, the Seychelles Court of Appeal upheld a Constitutional Court decision that validated the results of the 2015 presidential election.
- ✦ In the 2016 Seychellois parliamentary elections, the four main opposition parties formed a coalition called Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS) and won the majority of 19 out of 33 seats. President Michel's People's Party (PP) won the remaining 14 seats.
- ✦ As a result of the parliamentary elections, President Michel announced his resignation from office in September 2016, transferring power to Vice-President Danny Faure.
- ✦ The government controls much of the nation's media sector, and strict libel laws are in place, though they have not been used against journalists in several years.
- ✦ In October 2015, the National Assembly replaced the old Public Order Act, which e.g. contained tight restrictions on public assemblies and which was found unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court earlier that year. The new law is less restrictive, but still it requires five days' notice to police before public gatherings, and allows the police commissioner to impose conditions on the venue or timing and to halt an assembly in the interest of defense, public safety, public morality, or public health.
- ✦ Foreign workers, who make up about twenty per cent of the workforce, can face exploitative conditions in the construction and fishing industries. The government does not actively enforce anti-trafficking laws.
- ✦ In 2016, the government implemented a major tax reform, cutting and simplifying personal and corporate taxes; however, pervasive corruption severely hampers the emergence of a dynamic private sector beyond the tourism sector. **Sources for explanation on risk level change**

- ✦ EEAS
- ✦ European Commission
- ✦ The Heritage Foundation: Index of Economic Freedom
- ✦ Freedom House: Freedom in the World Reports
- ✦ The Economist
- ✦ BBC
- ✦ Bloomberg
- ✦ The Diplomat
- ✦ The Guardian
- ✦ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
- ✦ n-tv
- ✦ Seychelles News Agency



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