

Country Risk Classification

Country Risk Classification

amfori BSCI

The risk classification of countries relies on the Worldwide Governance Indicators, being aggregate indicators of Governance 1996-2017. 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

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

The 2017 Worldwide Governance Indicators were published by the Worldbank on the 21st September 2018 and extracted on the 22nd September 2018 for use in this Country Risk Classification.

Application

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

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

Low-risk countries: Countries with 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 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 to define their priorities in terms of monitoring, capacity building and stakeholders' 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 2019 enters into force on 1 January 2019. It overrules amfori BSCI list of Risk countries version 2018 and will remain valid until the next version.

Risk Countries

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Afghanistan	7.9	22.17	0.48	9.13	6.73	4.81	3.85
Albania	52.6	54.19	61.90	55.77	62.02	39.42	42.31
Algeria	21.4	23.15	14.76	30.29	10.58	19.23	30.29
Angola	16.2	17.73	34.29	14.90	12.50	11.54	6.25
Argentina	52.3	65.52	53.33	59.62	41.35	46.15	47.60
Armenia	41.5	32.02	20.48	50.00	64.42	49.52	32.69
Azerbaijan	27.6	6.90	18.57	47.12	43.27	32.21	17.79
Bahrain	45.5	11.33	15.24	60.10	66.83	67.31	51.92
Bangladesh	21.8	30.05	10.48	22.12	20.67	28.37	19.23
Belarus	31.8	12.32	45.71	39.42	24.52	21.63	47.12
Belize	39.5	67.00	48.57	27.88	31.25	16.35	46.15
Benin	38.4	58.62	48.10	26.44	33.17	30.29	33.65
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	28.4	45.81	33.33	37.50	16.35	9.62	27.88
Bosnia and Herzegovina	39.8	39.90	31.90	34.62	48.08	47.12	37.02
Brazil	44.3	61.58	31.43	41.83	51.44	43.75	36.06
Bulgaria	59.8	59.11	60.48	63.94	72.60	51.92	50.96
Burkina Faso	37.0	48.28	16.19	30.77	34.62	38.94	53.37
Burundi	9.1	6.40	4.76	8.65	18.27	7.21	9.13
Cambodia	24.7	15.76	52.86	25.48	32.21	13.46	8.65
Cameroon	16.4	20.20	12.38	19.71	20.19	14.90	11.06
Central African Republic	7.5	17.24	5.71	2.88	4.81	2.88	11.54
Chad	8.4	11.82	9.52	6.25	9.13	8.65	5.29
China	42.1	7.88	36.67	68.27	48.56	44.71	46.63
Colombia	44.7	49.26	17.62	51.44	65.87	40.38	43.75
Comoros	23.8	36.45	47.14	5.29	12.98	13.94	26.92
Côte d'Ivoire	29.3	37.93	11.90	21.63	37.98	29.81	36.54
Cuba	38.2	7.39	70.00	44.71	7.69	35.10	64.42
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	7.0	0.00	29.52	4.33	0.00	3.37	4.81
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5.4	8.87	3.81	4.81	5.29	3.85	5.77
Djibouti	20.0	10.34	20.00	14.42	28.37	17.79	29.33
Dominican Republic	42.8	52.22	51.90	38.94	52.88	36.06	24.52
Ecuador	32.1	40.89	41.43	39.90	14.42	25.48	30.77
Egypt	22.6	13.30	9.05	29.33	17.31	32.69	34.13
El Salvador	38.9	51.72	38.10	37.98	47.60	20.19	37.98
Equatorial Guinea	10.1	1.48	40.48	6.73	6.25	5.77	0.00

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Eritrea	7.4	0.49	22.86	3.85	1.44	5.29	10.58
Eswatini	32.3	8.37	33.81	32.21	30.77	42.79	45.67
Ethiopia	20.3	9.85	7.62	23.56	13.94	33.65	33.17
Fiji	56.7	52.71	73.81	57.21	45.19	45.67	65.38
Gabon	24.8	19.70	41.90	16.83	22.60	26.92	20.67
Gambia	31.6	29.06	39.05	25.96	34.13	34.13	27.40
Ghana	54.0	67.49	49.52	49.04	49.52	59.13	49.04
Greece	58.4	70.94	40.95	66.35	62.98	56.73	52.40
Guatemala	28.3	37.44	26.67	26.92	41.83	12.98	24.04
Guinea	17.5	25.12	24.76	13.94	17.79	9.13	14.42
Guinea Bissau	12.3	24.63	25.24	3.37	11.06	6.73	2.88
Guyana	43.3	55.67	44.29	41.35	37.50	43.27	37.50
Haiti	13.1	26.11	20.95	0.96	8.17	12.50	10.10
Honduras	28.1	32.51	27.62	33.65	35.10	14.42	25.48
India	46.3	60.10	17.14	56.73	42.31	52.88	48.56
Indonesia	45.9	50.74	29.05	54.81	51.92	40.87	48.08
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	21.7	12.81	15.71	45.19	10.10	25.96	20.19
Iraq	8.9	20.69	2.38	9.62	9.62	4.33	6.73
Jamaica	59.1	69.46	56.19	69.23	60.10	49.04	50.48
Jordan	49.2	26.60	28.10	57.69	57.69	61.06	63.94
Kazakhstan	38.7	13.79	45.24	53.85	61.06	38.46	19.71
Kenya	31.9	40.39	12.86	40.87	43.75	37.98	15.38
Kiribati	59.8	81.77	78.10	43.27	19.71	69.71	66.35
Kuwait	46.1	30.54	43.81	46.63	53.37	57.69	44.71
Kyrgyzstan	25.8	33.00	30.00	23.08	38.46	17.31	12.98
Lao People's Democratic Republic	27.6	4.43	63.33	38.46	25.48	18.27	15.87
Lebanon	25.0	31.53	8.57	33.17	40.87	21.15	14.90
Lesotho	40.8	47.78	37.62	19.23	39.90	44.23	56.25
Liberia	23.8	46.31	30.48	8.17	15.38	15.87	26.44
Libya	3.3	9.36	3.33	2.40	0.96	1.92	1.92
Macedonia, FYR	50.0	41.87	37.14	58.17	71.15	46.63	45.19
Madagascar	23.3	35.47	32.86	12.02	26.44	19.71	13.46
Malawi	32.7	44.83	35.24	24.52	23.56	39.90	28.37
Malaysia	60.1	34.48	52.38	76.44	74.52	64.90	58.17

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Maldives	34.4	25.62	57.14	35.58	35.58	30.77	21.63
Mali	24.2	38.42	6.19	17.31	30.29	23.08	29.81
Marshall Islands	46.3	88.18	53.81	5.77	13.46	59.62	57.21
Mauritania	24.7	24.14	24.29	22.60	23.08	31.25	23.08
Mexico	38.0	42.86	23.33	52.40	61.54	31.73	16.35
Micronesia (Federated States of)	63.3	85.22	92.38	56.25	14.90	53.37	77.88
Moldova (Republic of)	38.5	45.32	38.57	34.13	54.33	37.50	21.15
Mongolia	51.3	56.16	74.76	42.31	50.96	41.83	41.83
Montenegro	54.5	50.25	44.76	58.65	64.90	53.85	54.33
Morocco	42.2	28.57	30.95	47.60	44.71	48.56	52.88
Mozambique	20.9	33.50	14.29	18.27	25.00	15.38	18.75
Myanmar	19.8	23.65	13.33	13.46	19.23	16.83	32.21
Nauru	40.3	63.55	66.19	36.06	11.54	23.56	40.87
Nepal	26.2	38.92	22.38	18.75	25.96	27.40	23.56
Nicaragua	28.7	27.09	42.86	27.40	27.40	29.33	18.27
Niger	25.3	33.99	10.00	24.04	26.92	27.88	28.85
Nigeria	17.4	34.98	5.24	16.35	16.83	18.75	12.50
Oman	58.3	19.21	71.43	61.54	68.27	65.87	63.46
Pakistan	22.9	28.08	1.90	31.25	29.33	24.04	22.60
Palau	57.4	89.16	80.48	43.75	28.85	61.54	40.87
Panama	55.9	65.02	61.43	53.37	66.35	54.33	35.10
Papua New Guinea	28.0	51.23	26.19	25.00	27.88	20.67	16.83
Paraguay	35.6	44.33	50.95	20.19	44.23	28.85	25.00
Peru	46.6	55.17	36.19	48.56	67.31	33.17	38.94
Philippines	40.7	48.77	10.95	51.92	55.77	37.02	39.90
Republic of the Congo	14.0	16.75	28.57	11.06	7.21	12.02	8.17
Romania	58.2	64.53	49.05	46.15	70.19	63.94	55.29
Russian Federation	27.1	18.72	21.43	50.48	32.69	22.12	17.31
Rwanda	53.0	16.26	47.62	63.46	60.58	58.65	71.63
Sao Tome and Principe	39.8	57.14	55.24	20.67	18.75	26.44	60.58
Saudi Arabia	45.0	5.91	23.81	62.50	54.81	57.21	65.87
Senegal	49.1	56.65	43.33	40.38	49.04	50.48	54.81
Serbia	51.2	49.75	50.00	60.58	55.29	48.08	43.27
Seychelles	61.7	53.69	69.52	67.31	47.12	58.17	74.52
Sierra Leone	27.7	39.41	46.67	10.58	15.87	22.60	31.25

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Solomon Islands	43.5	62.56	54.76	15.38	21.15	47.60	59.62
Somalia	1.4	3.94	2.86	0.48	0.48	0.00	0.48
South Africa	56.9	68.97	35.71	65.38	62.50	52.40	56.73
South Sudan	1.6	2.96	1.43	0.00	2.88	1.44	0.96
Sri Lanka	46.8	43.35	42.38	48.08	50.48	55.29	41.35
State of Palestine	35.9	21.67	8.10	37.02	56.25	36.54	55.77
Sudan	5.4	2.46	4.29	7.21	4.33	10.58	3.37
Suriname	45.7	61.08	51.43	29.81	31.73	50.00	50.00
Syrian Arab Republic	1.9	1.97	0.95	1.92	3.37	0.96	2.40
Tajikistan	11.3	4.93	21.90	12.98	12.02	8.17	7.69
Tanzania (United Republic of)	32.5	36.95	25.71	28.37	29.81	34.62	39.42
Thailand	44.0	21.18	19.05	66.83	59.62	54.81	42.79
Timor-Leste	31.4	57.64	46.19	15.87	24.04	10.10	34.62
Togo	22.3	29.56	19.52	12.50	21.63	24.52	25.96
Tonga	56.1	67.98	73.81	44.23	37.02	62.02	51.44
Trinidad and Tobago	56.6	66.50	58.10	62.98	56.73	50.96	44.23
Tunisia	44.0	53.20	13.81	50.96	36.06	56.25	53.85
Turkey	40.3	27.59	7.14	55.29	57.21	45.19	49.52
Turkmenistan	10.6	0.99	40.00	10.10	1.92	6.25	4.33
Tuvalu	58.5	83.74	94.29	21.15	22.12	71.15	58.65
Uganda	32.0	31.03	27.14	31.73	45.67	42.31	13.94
Ukraine	29.4	47.29	6.67	35.10	40.38	25.00	22.12
Uzbekistan	17.1	3.45	34.76	32.69	8.65	11.06	12.02
Vanuatu	54.1	69.95	70.95	17.79	39.42	68.75	57.69
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	7.3	14.29	11.43	7.69	2.40	0.48	7.21
Viet Nam	41.2	10.84	59.52	52.88	36.54	55.77	31.73
Yemen	2.7	5.42	0.00	1.44	5.77	2.40	1.44
Zambia	37.6	35.96	50.48	28.85	33.65	41.35	35.58
Zimbabwe	10.9	14.78	18.10	11.54	3.85	7.69	9.62

Low Risk Countries

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Andorra	90.8	86.21	97.62	98.56	85.58	90.38	86.54
Antigua and Barbuda	64.8	68.47	72.38	54.33	63.94	66.83	62.98
Aruba	87.7	92.61	95.24	79.33	84.13	87.02	87.98
Australia	91.4	94.58	77.62	92.31	98.08	93.27	92.79
Austria	91.6	93.60	86.19	91.83	90.87	96.15	90.87
Bahamas	72.1	74.88	82.38	73.08	58.65	60.10	83.65
Barbados	79.7	84.24	80.95	77.40	70.67	75.48	89.42
Belgium	84.5	95.07	62.86	85.10	86.54	87.50	89.90
Bhutan	68.6	46.80	89.52	70.67	38.94	74.04	91.83
Botswana	72.0	59.61	85.71	68.75	69.71	69.23	78.85
Brunei Darussalam	70.5	22.66	91.43	84.13	75.48	74.52	75.00
Cabo Verde	67.7	77.34	79.05	59.13	46.15	64.42	80.29
Canada	95.1	96.06	88.57	97.12	97.60	95.67	95.67
Cayman Islands	76.8	62.07	90.95	85.58	75.96	76.92	69.23
Chile	78.5	79.31	60.95	77.88	88.94	81.73	82.21
Costa Rica	69.1	84.73	64.29	62.02	69.23	67.79	66.83
Croatia	67.0	64.04	71.90	72.60	68.75	63.46	61.06
Cyprus	78.3	83.25	67.14	79.81	81.25	79.81	78.37
Czech Republic	80.5	76.85	84.29	81.25	86.06	83.65	70.67
Denmark	92.7	96.55	75.71	95.67	92.31	97.60	98.56
Dominica	68.8	75.37	86.67	42.79	59.13	75.00	73.56
Estonia	84.9	89.66	69.05	83.65	93.27	86.54	87.02
Finland	96.5	97.54	87.62	98.08	96.63	100.00	99.04
France	81.4	85.71	54.29	87.98	83.65	89.42	87.50
French Guiana	83.6	92.61	65.24	88.46	87.50	86.06	81.73
Georgia	63.5	54.68	32.38	72.12	81.73	62.98	77.40
Germany	89.5	95.57	66.67	94.23	95.19	91.35	94.23
Greenland	89.5	92.61	100.00	76.92	88.46	94.71	84.13
Grenada	65.1	71.92	85.24	45.67	53.85	66.35	67.31
Hong Kong SAR, China	86.6	60.59	75.24	97.60	100.00	93.75	92.31
Hungary	67.5	58.13	74.29	70.19	73.08	70.19	59.13
Iceland	92.8	94.09	96.67	91.35	90.38	90.87	93.27
Ireland	89.1	90.64	84.76	87.02	91.83	88.94	91.35
Israel	70.9	70.44	16.67	89.42	87.02	82.21	79.81
Italy	67.9	82.76	55.71	69.71	75.00	62.50	61.54

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Japan	88.8	80.30	89.05	93.27	89.90	89.90	90.38
Jersey, Channel Islands	87.6	92.61	94.76	86.06	74.04	94.71	83.17
Latvia	74.9	73.89	63.81	78.85	82.69	80.29	69.71
Liechtenstein	94.0	90.15	98.10	94.71	91.35	92.31	97.12
Lithuania	77.6	78.33	72.86	80.29	83.17	80.77	70.19
Luxembourg	95.3	97.04	95.71	93.75	93.75	95.19	96.15
Macao SAR, China	79.1	43.84	97.14	88.94	94.71	77.88	72.12
Malta	85.3	87.19	93.81	80.77	87.98	85.10	76.92
Mauritius	75.3	73.40	81.90	78.37	80.29	75.96	62.02
Namibia	61.3	66.01	68.57	61.06	46.63	60.58	64.90
Netherlands	94.3	99.01	79.52	96.63	98.56	97.12	95.19
New Zealand	98.3	98.52	99.05	95.19	99.04	98.08	100.00
Norway	97.4	100.00	90.00	99.04	96.15	99.52	99.52
Poland	72.5	72.91	64.76	74.04	78.85	68.27	75.96
Portugal	84.8	88.67	88.10	87.50	79.33	84.13	80.77
Puerto Rico	64.4	63.05	62.38	49.52	78.37	73.08	60.10
Qatar	62.7	15.27	65.71	74.52	67.79	76.44	76.44
Republic of Korea	74.6	71.43	58.57	82.21	82.21	85.58	67.79
Saint Kitts and Nevis	71.6	78.82	68.10	71.63	71.63	70.67	68.75
Saint Lucia	73.7	77.83	90.48	64.90	65.38	72.60	71.15
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	70.7	76.35	78.57	64.90	63.46	65.38	75.48
Samoa	73.9	72.41	92.38	73.56	52.40	78.37	74.04
Singapore	89.0	41.38	98.57	100.00	99.52	96.63	97.60
Slovakia	72.9	75.86	76.19	75.00	76.44	71.63	62.50
Slovenia	79.3	79.80	77.14	84.62	72.12	82.69	79.33
Spain	75.0	81.28	57.62	81.73	79.81	81.25	68.27
Sweden	95.0	99.51	81.43	96.15	95.67	99.04	98.08
Switzerland	97.1	98.03	92.86	99.52	97.12	98.56	96.63
Taiwan	83.2	80.79	76.67	86.54	89.42	84.62	81.25
United Arab Emirates	69.5	18.23	67.62	90.38	80.77	77.40	82.69
United Kingdom	87.1	93.10	56.67	90.87	94.23	92.79	94.71
United States of America	84.6	82.27	59.05	92.79	92.79	91.83	88.94
Uruguay	79.3	86.70	87.14	67.79	73.56	72.12	88.46

Incomplete Risk Classification Ratings

A total of eight (8) countries could not be assigned with an updated Risk Classification Rating, as no data is available for one or more dimensions.

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Anguilla	no data	no data	96.19	75.96	77.88	51.44	86.54
Bermuda	no data	no data	83.81	89.90	77.88	79.33	86.54
Guam	no data	no data	70.48	65.87	58.17	88.46	86.54
Martinique	no data	no data	83.81	83.17	85.58	79.33	86.54
Monaco	no data	74.38	99.52	no data	no data	no data	no data
Réunion	no data	no data	60.00	83.17	85.58	83.17	73.08
San Marino	no data	88.18	80.48	no data	no data	no data	no data
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	no data	no data	83.81	75.96	77.88	73.56	73.08

Country Name Change

Swaziland has officially changed its name to Eswatini in April of 2018, which is also reflected in the United Nations Member States list.

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	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	7.0	0.00	29.52	4.33	0.00	3.37	4.81
Somalia	1.4	3.94	2.86	0.48	0.48	0.00	0.48
South Sudan	1.6	2.96	1.43	0.00	2.88	1.44	0.96
Syrian Arab Republic	1.9	1.97	0.95	1.92	3.37	0.96	2.40
Yemen	2.7	5.42	0.00	1.44	5.77	2.40	1.44

Most Severe Risk Countries present a higher risk of human right violations perpetrated against workers. At the same time, extremely poor governance and political instability may hinder amfori members from pursuing reasonable due diligence in their supply chains in those countries: monitoring and capacity building activities might not be possible.

amfori members should aim to:

- Assess if they have direct or indirect business linkages with Most Severe Risk Countries (e.g. for specific components or commodities);
- Consult the Country Due Diligence Tool and identify critical risks on social, environmental and trade issues

- Alert sourcing department and / or suppliers on the critical risks and collect information on any risk prevention practices in place
- If need arises, contact the amfori Secretariat for support on policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement.

Risk Classification Changes

One (1) country has seen a change in its classification while eight (8) countries have seen significant change in either their overall rating or in individual dimensions without a change in classification.

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

Countries which have changed from Low Risk to Risk

Malaysia

Malaysia has a rating of 60.1, but is listed as a Risk country, as three individual dimensions have rated below 60 (Voice and Accountability, Political Stability & absence of violence and Control of Corruption).

- ✦ The Communications and Multimedia Act (CMA) has been used repeatedly to investigate and arrest those who criticize government officials on social media. Section 233(1) of the CMA provides criminal penalties of up to one year in prison for a communication that “is obscene, indecent, false, menacing or offensive in character with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass another person”.
- ✦ Malaysian authorities prosecute individuals who hold peaceful assemblies without giving notice. The Societies Act restricts freedom of association by requiring that organizations with seven or more members register with the registrar of societies. The law gives the minister of home affairs “absolute discretion” to declare an organization illegal and grants the Registrar of Societies authority over political parties.
- ✦ Malaysia continues to detain individuals without trial under restrictive laws. Both the 1959 Prevention of Crime Act and the 2015 Prevention of Terrorism Act give government-appointed boards the authority to impose detention without trial for up to two years, renewable indefinitely, to order electronic monitoring, and to impose other significant restrictions on freedom of movement and freedom of association, with no possibility of judicial review.
- ✦ In August 2017, the government passed amendments to the Prevention of Crime Act that effectively eliminated the right of a detainee to be heard. The amendments abolished the detainee’s right to appear before or make representations to either the inquiry officer responsible for presenting the case for detention or to the government-appointed Prevention of Crime Board (POCB) that makes the detention decision.
- ✦ The similarly restrictive Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, which allows for preventive detention of up to 28 days with no judicial review for a range of “security offenses,” was renewed for an additional five years in April.
- ✦ Police torture of suspects in custody, in some cases resulting in deaths, continues to be a serious problem, as does a lack of accountability for such offenses. There were at least five deaths in custody during the year.
- ✦ A bill to increase the punishments that can be imposed by state Sharia courts remains pending in parliament, and in July 2017 the state of Kelantan passed legislation to permit public canings imposed by Sharia courts.

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

Antigua and Barbuda
Bhutan
Democratic Republic of Congo
Fiji
Puerto Rico
Qatar
South Sudan
Yemen

Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda has a rating of 64.8 showing a continued decline since 2014 (-10.8 since 2014).

- ✦ In September 2017, Hurricane Irma destroyed 90% of Barbuda's infrastructure and is estimated to have caused \$215 million in losses, equivalent to 16.5% of the economy, which limits the state's ability to provide basic services.
- ✦ After resilient growth in the past three years, fiscal conditions have deteriorated with relatively high gross financing needs and severe cash flow difficulties in Central Government. The passage of Hurricane Irma exacerbated the Government's financing constraint.
- ✦ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Antigua and Barbuda is estimated to have expanded in real terms by 2.7% in 2017, compared with real growth of 5.3% for 2016. This moderation in the growth of economic activity is due in part to declines in tourism and delays in key infrastructural projects. According to the Caribbean Tourism Organization, stayover arrivals fell by 6.7% to 247,320 in 2017. This decline was recorded in key source markets – the United States and Europe – reflecting major competition from other destinations and the uncertainty surrounding BREXIT. This was compounded on the domestic front with the closure of a number of hotels during the period August to November, including Sandals Resort Hotel, for maintenance and renovations.
- ✦ Gaston Browne, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda appears secure in power until the next election in 2019, despite US allegations of corruption involving high-level government officials and local banks linked to the region-wide Odebrecht scandal. Tourism remains the key driver of economic activity. The country continues to suffer a high per-capita murder rate, largely related to violent contests between local criminal gangs, although collaborative efforts with US law enforcement agencies have led to a decrease in trafficking activity on the islands.

Bhutan

Bhutan has a rating of 68.6 and has gained 5.9 points since last year (+15 points since 2014).

- ✦ Bhutan made the transition from absolute monarchy to constitutional parliamentary democracy in 2008. In 2013, it completed its second democratic handover of power after Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's People's Democratic Party won the majority of seats in the National Assembly.
- ✦ Bhutan has a stable political and economic environment. It has made a tremendous progress in reducing extreme poverty and promoting gender equality, while attention is needed to address inequality issues.
- ✦ Hydropower construction and supportive fiscal and monetary policy have contributed to solid growth. Single-digit inflation, a stable exchange rate, and accumulating international reserves attest to the stability. Nevertheless, structural challenges remain, including large current account deficits, high public debt, an underdeveloped private sector, and a high youth unemployment rate. A delay in hydropower construction could cloud macroeconomic prospects in the coming years.
- ✦ The most significant human rights issues included continued incarceration of Nepali-speaking political prisoners; restrictions on freedom of assembly and association; and the government's refusal to readmit certain refugees who asserted claims to Bhutanese citizenship.
- ✦ The government generally respects judicial independence and requires that all cases be cleared within a year of filing. The law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials, and the government generally implements these laws effectively.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has a rating of 5.4, which is 20% lower than last year's result.

- ✦ The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is still recovering from a series of conflicts that broke out in the 1990s.
- ✦ Political unrest continued in 2017, as President Joseph Kabila stayed in power beyond his constitutionally mandated two-term limit, which ended on December 19, 2016.
- ✦ Security forces killed at least 62 people and arrested hundreds of others during protests across the country between December 19 and 22, 2016, after Kabila refused to step down at the end of his second term. In total, security forces killed at least 171 people during protests in 2015 and 2016.
- ✦ The economic development of the DRC has been severely undermined by decades of instability and violence. Poor economic management aggravated by repeated political crises has constrained economic freedom and trapped much of the population in persistent poverty. Arbitrary taxation, poor infrastructure, marginal enforcement of property rights, and the weak rule of law have driven many people and enterprises into the informal sector, which accounts for more than 80 percent of economic activity.

Fiji

Fiji has a rating of 56.7, which is 5.2 points more than last year (+15 points compared to 2014).

- ✦ Fiji shares the same challenges and opportunities as other small and remote island economies. They are small in size with limited natural resources, narrowly-based economies, large distances away from major markets, and vulnerable to external shocks; all of which can affect growth and have often led to a high degree of economic volatility.
- ✦ The repressive climate that followed a 2006 coup has eased since democratic elections were held in 2014. However, the ruling party frequently interferes with opposition activities, the judiciary is subject to political influence, and military and police brutality is a significant problem.
- ✦ Assembly rights were more respected in 2017: the crackdown on public gatherings that took place in 2016 was eased. Police permits are required for public gatherings and protests, and civil society leaders have reported that the permit process can be lengthy. The constitution gives the government wide latitude to prohibit protests, on the basis of public safety and public morality.
- ✦ A devastating cyclone early in 2016 caused widespread damage to housing, infrastructure, and crops, and the cost of rebuilding weighs heavily on public finances. Recovery is further hampered by underperforming institutions, structural and policy weaknesses, and weak rule of law. In an effort to enhance regulatory efficiency, the government implemented a series of pro-business reforms, including simplification of the business start-up process, but the pace of reform had slowed even before the storm.
- ✦ The constitutionally independent judiciary is subject to executive influence. The law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials, but the government does not enforce the law effectively.
- ✦ Fiji's credit bureau suspended operations in 2016, making it harder to obtain credit, but the process for starting a business was made less costly and time-consuming. Labour regulations remain rigid, and an efficient labour market has not been developed. The government continues to fund subsidies for the rebuilding of roads, bridges, water supplies, and sanitation damaged by the 2016 cyclone, as well as for rural electrification.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has a rating of 64.4, which is 4.1 points less than last year (6 points less than in 2014).

- ✦ Between 2005 and 2016, Puerto Rico's economy was shrinking at an annual real rate of 1 percent per year. As the economy declined, so did the revenues of its government, which started to increasingly finance operations through borrowing. In the summer of 2015, Puerto Rico's governor declared that the island's \$70bn debt was unpayable. A multitude of factors contributed to this crisis, from Puerto Rico's colonial status as a US territory to mismanagement from several of the island's governments.
- ✦ In 2015, debt crisis legislation called the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) was passed by a Republican-led Congress and signed into law by then-president Barack Obama. This law prevented "vulture" funds from exploiting legitimate creditors and holding our country hostage.
- ✦ Puerto Rico is not a country (which means that it is not eligible for financing from the International Monetary Fund), nor is it a US state. Yet it has features of both: Although it has its own constitution, it is a United States territory, Puerto Ricans are

US citizens, and the island is subject to US federal law, except as otherwise stipulated. Puerto Rico's political status has contributed to its decade-long crisis that has prompted more than 200,000 people to flee to the US mainland in recent years.

- ✦ Hurricane Maria hit the island of Puerto Rico in September 2017, killing 2975 people, including those who died in the six months following the storm as a result of poor healthcare provision and a lack of electricity and clean water. Repeated power cuts also led to an increased number of deaths from diabetes and sepsis.

Qatar

Qatar has a rating of 62.7, continuing the decline in rating since 2014.

- ✦ The period from February 2015 through January 2017 has been primarily marked by the fallout from the collapse in oil and gas prices. While Qatar remains the richest country in the world in per capita income and managed to avoid a budget deficit in 2015 (as the only Gulf monarchy), the economy has been heavily hit by decreasing revenue, resulting in its first budget deficit in 2016.
- ✦ In June 2017, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) cut diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed trade and transportation sanctions on the country, accusing it of supporting terrorist groups—which they defined to include Islamist political organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood—and pursuing other policies that antagonized its Arab neighbours.
- ✦ The more pressing international issue is currently the treatment of foreign workers. Foreigners make up about 88% of the country's population but are excluded from the wide range of benefits that citizens enjoy, such as free health care, education, water and electricity. Due to the kafala (sponsorship) system, blue-collar workers are particularly highly dependent on their Qatari employers. Often, this results in rights abuses and conditions often described as “modern-day slavery” by human rights organizations.
- ✦ Qatar has a migrant labour force of nearly 2 million people, who comprise approximately 95 percent of its total labour force. Approximately 40 percent, or 800,000, of these workers are employed in construction. Current heat protection regulations for most workers in Qatar only prohibit outdoor work from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June 15 to August 31. But climate data shows that weather conditions in Qatar outside those hours and dates frequently reach levels that can result in potentially fatal heat-related illnesses without rest. In 2013, health authorities reported 520 deaths of workers of whom 385, or 74 percent, died from unexplained causes. Qatari public health officials have not responded to requests for information about the overall number and causes of deaths of migrant workers since 2012.

South Sudan

South Sudan has a rating of 1.6 accumulating in a decline of 75% since 2014.

- ✦ The renewed conflicts in December 2013 and July 2016 have undermined the development gains achieved since independence and worsened the humanitarian situation. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, more than 4.2 million people have been displaced both internally and to neighbouring countries, and about 5.3 million (nearly half the population) face severe food insecurity.
- ✦ Both sides have committed abuses including looting, indiscriminate attacks on civilians and the destruction of civilian property, arbitrary arrests and detention, beatings and torture, enforced disappearances, rape including gang rape, and extrajudicial executions.
- ✦ Human Rights Watch documented patterns of arbitrary detention, abuse and torture by government forces since the conflict began. The government did little to end widespread abuses against civilians or investigate and hold accountable individuals and commanders. Government investigations into violent episodes since the beginning of the conflict rarely led to credible prosecutions for human rights abuses.
- ✦ The government continued to restrict media, suppress critics, and unlawfully detain people for perceived opposition. In July 2017, the head of the state television was arrested for not broadcasting a presidential speech.
- ✦ South Sudanese authorities restricted international journalists from covering the conflict, including by refusing to grant them visas or accreditation, and accusing them of publishing articles critical of the government. The government blocked numerous independent online news sites, including Sudan Tribune.
- ✦ The constitution grants absolute powers to the executive and particularly the president. The president has, for example, the authority to dismiss or replace elected government officials without challenge from the National Legislative Assembly or

cabinet ministers. Constitutionally, South Sudan has a multiparty political system. However, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) remains the only political party in the country since the start of the interim period in 2005.

- ✦ South Sudan is the most oil-dependent country in the world, with oil accounting for almost the totality of exports, and around 60% of its gross domestic product (GDP). On current reserve estimates, oil production is expected to reduce steadily in future years and to become negligible by 2035.
- ✦ All indicators suggest that the challenges facing South Sudan are rapidly growing and will likely contribute to the complete collapse of the state if not resolved soon.

Yemen

Yemen has a rating of 2.7 accumulating in a decline of 75% since 2014.

- ✦ After more than three years of escalating conflict, Yemen continues to face an unprecedented humanitarian, social and economic crisis.
- ✦ About 75% of the population (22.2 million people) requires humanitarian assistance. An estimated 17.8 million are food insecure -8.4 million people are severely food insecure and at risk of famine. 16 million lack access to safe water and sanitation, and 16.4 million lack access to adequate healthcare. Cholera, diphtheria and other communicable diseases rates have hit the Yemeni people hard. Nation-wide, about 1.8 million children and 1.1 million pregnant or lactating women are acutely malnourished including 400 000 children under the age of five who are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Over 3 million people have been forced to flee from their homes.
- ✦ Yemen's public institutions are struggling with service delivery at even the most basic levels, a situation further been complicated by the lack of regular salary payments to many public workers.
- ✦ The economy is badly hit by the prolonged conflict, depriving millions from their livelihoods and jobs and driving poverty levels to over 80 percent.
- ✦ Even before the current conflict, years of mismanagement, corruption, and depletion of natural resources, both oil and water, had led to chronic poverty and underdevelopment, with minimal access to basic services such as electricity, water, and health care in much of the country. The conflict has aggravated that situation, and significant international assistance will likely be needed to stabilize the economy, restore basic services, and restart Yemen's oil and gas industry when the civil war ends.
- ✦ Yemeni human rights groups and lawyers have documented hundreds more cases of arbitrary detentions and forcible disappearances in northern and southern Yemen.
- ✦ Both Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State in Yemen (IS-Y) claimed responsibility for numerous suicide and other bombings.
- ✦ Aid workers have been kidnapped, arbitrarily detained, and killed while engaged in humanitarian operations in Yemen.

Sources for explanation on risk level change

- ✦ Amnesty International
- ✦ BBC
- ✦ Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI)
- ✦ Center for Economic and Policy Research
- ✦ Country Economic Review 2017
- ✦ Freedom House
- ✦ Human Rights Watch
- ✦ Index of Economic Freedom

amfori

Avenue de Cortenbergh 172
1000 Brussels – Belgium

Fax: +32 2 762 75 06

Phone: +32 2 762 05 51

Email: info@amfori.org

www.amfori.org

amfori  **BSCI**
Trade with purpose