Global Experts Poll: Economic Confidence Plummets to Lowest Level in Five Quarters

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- Confidence in the state of the global economy over the next 12 months fell to lowest level in five quarters
- Fear of a major economic disruption climbed to 68% from 46% in the previous quarter
- Fifth quarterly*Global Confidence Index*polled 430 experts from business, government, international organizations and academia who are Members of the Forum's Network of Global Agenda Councils
- Access the full analysis and results online at http://www.weforum.org/ConfidenceIndex

Geneva, Switzerland, 22 August 2012 – Confidence in the state of the world economy is at its lowest ebb since the World Economic Forum started its Global Confidence Index five quarters ago. The relative optimism of the previous quarter evaporated against a backdrop of slowing growth in the US and China as well as a lingering eurozone crisis, with 72% of respondents to the poll reporting that they were not confident about the state of the global economy over the next 12 months, up from 37%.

"Despite every effort to ensure economic, social and political stability, we are still just one shock away from everything getting off track again – which points to the need for greater resilience globally," said Lee Howell, Managing Director at the World Economic Forum, who is responsible for the Forum's *Global Risks 2012* report.

All three of the main confidence indices measured in the poll of 430 experts reflected a markedly more negative outlook in the third quarter of the year. As well as the gloomy overview, 68% of experts now gauge a significant economic disruption to be likely or very likely in the next 12 months, up from 46% in the second quarter.

The perceived likelihood of a big societal disruption also increased, with 53% of respondents seeing this as likely or very likely over the next year, up from 46% three months previously. Meanwhile, concerns about a major geopolitical disruption remained stable at 55%.

Respondents were increasingly worried about the ability of existing institutions to cope with the multifaceted crisis. Some 61% of the experts surveyed were not confident in global governance, up from 45% in the previous quarter, while those who lacked confidence in global cooperation rose to 48% from 37%.

The *Global Confidence Index* – a joint initiative of the World Economic Forum's Risk Response Network and Global Agenda Councils – is the only research initiative of its kind targeting such a large group of international experts who focus on monitoring key trends, identifying global risks and mapping their interlinkages. The first quarterly report was issued in September 2011, and today's results are the fifth successive instalment.

The next Global Confidence Index results will be available on 12 November 2012.

Notes to Editors

For more information about the **Risk Response Network**, visit http://www.weforum.org/RRN
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