

Global Experts Poll: Economic Confidence Firms in Fourth Quarter, but Gloom Prevails

12 November 2012

Samantha Tonkin, Communications, Risk Response Network, +41 (0)79 615 1640, samantha.tonkin@weforum.org

- 56% of respondents lacked confidence in global economy in fourth quarter, down from 72%
- Respondents in North America more worried about an economic shock than those in Asia
- Sixth quarterly *Global Confidence Index* polled 460 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, 12 November 2012 – Confidence in the state of the world economy firmed up in the fourth quarter, although a majority of respondents to the World Economic Forum's Global Confidence Index poll were still pessimistic. Amid some signs that the slowdown in China has bottomed out, 56% of global experts polled said they lacked confidence in the global economy, sharply down from 72% last quarter.

“The results are indeed an improvement from last quarter's confidence levels, but sentiment overall remains pessimistic,” said Martina Gmur, Senior Director of the Forum's Network of Global Agenda Councils. “We still need strategic vision coupled with bold leadership to snap out of this global malaise.”

In a poll of 460 experts, respondents in the Middle East and North Africa were significantly more confident about the global economy than those in North America, Europe, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Reflecting sentiment in the run-up to the presidential elections in the United States and China's political transition, respondents in North America were more worried about an upcoming economic shock than their counterparts in Asia. Some 63% in the US and Canada judged this as likely or very likely versus 43% in Asia.

“While the probability of a global recession is no greater than about 25%, according to forecasts, three risks loom large: the US fiscal cliff, the eurozone sovereign debt crisis and the potential for an escalation of conflict in the Middle East and North Africa,” said Nariman Behravesh, Chief Economist at IHS and a member of the Global Agenda Council on the United States.

Overall, the number of respondents worried about an economic jolt fell to 52% from 68% last quarter, while those concerned about a social shock fell to 46% from 53%. Expectations of a geopolitical, environmental or technological disturbance were little changed, at 56%, 36% and 25% respectively.

Confidence in global governance improved, with the number of respondents lacking faith in this area falling to 51% from 61%. Respondents from the Middle East and North Africa expressed more confidence in global institutions than their counterparts in Europe.

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 sixth successive instalment.

The next Global Confidence Index results will be available on 21 January 2013

Notes to Editors

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

For more information about the Network of Global Agenda Councils, visit <http://www.weforum.org/GACs>

For more information about the results, visit <http://www.weforum.org/ConfidenceIndex>

Follow the Forum on Twitter at <http://wef.ch/twitter> and <http://wef.ch/livetweet>

Read the Forum Blog at <http://wef.ch/blog>

The World Economic Forum is an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation in the spirit of global citizenship. It engages with business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum is independent, impartial and not tied to any interests. It cooperates closely with all leading international organizations (www.weforum.org).



World Economic Forum, 91-93 route de la Capite, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva
Tel. +41 (0)22 869 1212, Fax +41 (0)22 786 2744, <http://www.weforum.org>