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Source: World Economic Forum

Global Risks Report 2026



The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently launched the 21st edition of the “Global Risks Report 2026,” which has been issued annually since 2006. The report highlights the most significant global risks at the start of each year and focuses on emerging challenges and their potential long-term impacts.

The launch of this report in Egypt comes in collaboration with the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES), the sole research partner of the WEF in Egypt.

[LINK](#)

The report builds on the insights of 1,300 experts in academia, business, government, civil society and think-tanks regarding the global risk landscape. It complements this with a survey of 11,000 business leaders across 116 economies. It defines risks across three timeframes: Immediate (2026), short-term (2 years), and long-term (10 years). It divides these risks across five main categories with each category having subcategories:

1. Economic risk
2. Environmental risk
3. Geopolitical risk
4. Social risk
5. Technological risk

This edition of *Views on News* outlines the report's key findings on the global risks and challenges, followed by an analysis of the specific risks expected to face Egypt specifically over the coming two years.

I. Risks and challenges faced globally

Table (1) below highlights the top five risks faced globally in the immediate, short term and long term are:

Table 1. List of top five immediate, short term and long-term risks faced globally

Immediate	Short term	Long term
1. Geoeconomic confrontation 2. State-based armed conflict 3. Extreme weather events 4. Societal polarization 5. Misinformation and disinformation	1. Geoeconomic confrontation 2. Misinformation and disinformation 3. Societal polarization 4. Extreme weather events 5. Cyber insecurity	1. Extreme weather events 2. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse 3. Critical changes to the planet's ecosystems 4. Misinformation and disinformation 5. Adverse outcomes of AI technologies

Source: Global Risks Report 2026.

2. Risks and challenges regionally (derived from country reporting in the Global Risks Report)

Table 2. Major risks faced by each region

Region	Risk Category
North America	Economic: Asset bubbles, economic downturn Technological: Misinformation & disinformation Geopolitical: geoeconomic confrontation.
Europe	Economic: Economic downturn Geopolitical: State-based armed conflict Societal: societal polarization Technological: Misinformation & disinformation
East Asia & Pacific	Economic: Talent shortages Environmental: Extreme weather events Geopolitical: Geoeconomic confrontation Technological: Misinformation & disinformation
South Asia	Economic: Unemployment Technological: Cyber insecurity Geopolitical: geoeconomic confrontation Societal: inequality

Latin America & Caribbean	<p>Economic: Crime and illicit economic activity, inflation, debt</p> <p>Societal: Insufficient public services, societal polarization</p>
Middle East & North Africa	<p>Economic: Inflation</p> <p>Environmental: Natural resource shortages</p> <p>Geopolitical: Geoeconomic confrontation, state-based conflict</p> <p>Technological: Cyber insecurity</p> <p>Societal: inequality</p>
Sub-Saharan Africa	<p>Economic: Unemployment, debt</p> <p>Societal: Insufficient public services, infectious diseases</p>
Central Asia	<p>Economic: Economic downturn, inflation, disruptions to critical infrastructure.</p>

Source: Global Risks Report 2026

3. Global risks and challenges Egypt is expected to face over the coming two years

- The report focuses on short-term challenges only for the case of individual countries, including Egypt.
- Table 3 below outlines the risks Egypt is expected to face over the next two years, according to the report:

Table 3. Top five risks Egypt is expected to face over the short term

Issue	Risk Category
Inflation	Economic
Economic downturn	Economic
Debt	Economic
Asset bubble burst	Economic
Inequality	Societal

Source: Global Risks Report

- Economic risks represent a significant challenge for Egypt, with four of the top five identified risks falling under this category. This contrasts with the broader MENA region, where only one top risk is economic (debt), and globally, where none of the top five risks are economic in nature.
- However, Egypt similar to all **lower-middle-income economies** is particularly economically vulnerable due to debt sustainability challenges.
- It is worth noting that the main geopolitical risks observed in the MENA region is not indicated in the case of Egypt despite being surrounded by danger from all sides (ECES observation).

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