World Governance Survey

GOVERNANCE PERCEPTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

This survey is the pilot phase of a project to get systematic information on governance for countries around the world. This pilot survey is being conducted in over 40 countries by the United Nations University (UNU) and local partner institutions around the world. The ultimate goal is to better understand what aspects of governance matter most and to provide informed policy advice in this area.

In order that we can make effective comparisons over time and across countries, the survey instrument is a pre-coded, multiple-choice questionnaire. It is important to answer all the questions. Your answers should reflect your experience and perceptions of governance for your country.

We are well aware that these standard questions cannot capture the full complexity of governance issues. Therefore, in addition to indicating which standard answer comes closest to describing your case, please provide additional comments to better explain the situation in your country. Also please add comments if there have been important changes in governance contexts over the last five years, noting the date and nature of these changes. We will take these comments into account when we analyse the findings.

The questionnaire should be filled in by an expert who has extensive experience and can answer questions on the main dimensions of governance in the respective country for the past 5 years. Such an expert should be able to fill in the questionnaire in a maximum of 1 hour. Please contact the country coordinator if you would like further clarification on the aims of the project or regarding specific questions.

Note: The information obtained will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Coordinator's Name: _____   Country: _____

Name of Expert: _____

Position of Expert:

Government	Parliament	Civil Service
Business	Legal	Academia
NGO	International Org.	Other_____

Experience with   _____
governance issues: _____

Please send me a copy of the country findings. (Provide address below)

_____

_____

Please return all documents to:
Governance Survey - United Nations University
5-53-70 Jingumae,   Shibuya-ku, Tokyo,   T 150-8925   JAPAN
Tel: 81 3 3499 2811; Fax: 81 3 3499 2810; Email: court@hq.unu.edu

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The questionnaire comprises 30 questions and is divided into 6 parts.

> Part I: covers the extent of participation in the political process.
> Part II: covers the way interests in society are aggregated in the political process.
> Part III: covers government stewardship of the system as a whole.
> Part IV: covers policy implementation, particularly the bureaucracy.
> Part V: covers the relationship between the state and the market.
> Part VI: covers dispute resolution, particularly the judiciary.

PART I: PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

1. To what extent do citizens have the freedom of expression?

This indicator tries to capture the formal and informal rules that affect people's opportunities to seek, receive and impart information. This indicator would also cover how well the media or other formal or informal channels reflect the views of others than those in power or dominant groups.

	5 years ago	**Now**
(5) very high		
(4) high		
(3) moderate		
(2) low		
(1) very low		

Comments:_____
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2. To what degree do citizens have the freedom of peaceful assembly and association?

This indicator tries to capture the degree of restrictions to people's opportunities to participate peacefully in the public realm – to join associations or to gather in public. It also includes the right that no-one is compelled to belong to an association.

	5 years ago	**Now**
(5) very high		
(4) high		
(3) moderate		
(2) low		
(1) very low		

Comments:_____
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3. To what extent is there discrimination in politics?

As a governance issue, the level of discrimination is an important indicator of the potential for different groups to enter the political process. Here we refer to distinction according to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(1)	very high		
(2)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(4)	low		
(5)	very low		

Comments:_____

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4. To what extent do governments facilitate public discussion on major shifts in policy?

For governments to formulate effective policies there will need to be mechanisms for consultation with different groups in society. Mechanisms to promote participation include consultations with citizens groups, public forums or referendums, for example.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____

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5. To what extent do citizens respect the system of rule-making?

The support (or lack of it) that citizens provide for the public realm is an important governance issue. Indicators of responsibilities to society would include issues such as payment of taxes, turning out to vote and not committing crime, for example.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____

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We would appreciate any further comments on the issues affecting participation in the political process. What are some priorities for reform in your country? What important issues does the questionnaire not cover?

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PART II: INTEREST AGGREGATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

6. To what extent is the legislature representative of society?

This would cover, for example, the degree to which the legislature contains women or minority groups.

		5 years ago	Now
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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7. To what degree is there real competition for political power?

Competition is often between political parties. But it need not only be the case. For example, there are examples where there is only one party but the level of competition is high within that party. Competition is essentially non-existent in a dictatorship.

		5 years ago	Now
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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8. To what extent does the policy-making process fairly reflect public preferences?

Ideally, interest aggregation implies being able to fairly accommodate competing preferences into public policy. The contrasting situation would be if the views of certain groups were excluded or if policy was primarily formulated in the interests of dominant groups.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____

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9. To what extent does the legislative function affect policy content?

On one hand, the legislature may play a decisive role in shaping policy. In contrast, it might only play a rubber stamping function.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____

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10. To what extent are legislators accountable to the public?

For many countries, this will refer to the effectiveness of the electoral system. But there could be other ways that legislators might be accountable to the public.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____

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We would appreciate any further comments on the issues affecting interest aggregation in the political process. What are some priorities for reform in your country? What important issues does the questionnaire not cover?

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PART III: GOVERNMENT STEWARDSHIP

11. To what extent is the government committed to ensuring the personal security of citizens?

There is a wide range of threats to personal security that governments can influence. These include fear of torture, arbitrary detention, crime, ethnic conflict and domestic violence, for example.

	5 years ago	**Now**
(5) very high		
(4) high		
(3) moderate		
(2) low		
(1) very low		

Comments:_____
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12. To what extent is the government committed to ensuring an adequate standard of living for citizens?

Equally important is the issue of how government promotes basic economic and social development. This includes issues such as the right to work and the right to social security, for example.

	5 years ago	**Now**
(5) very high		
(4) high		
(3) moderate		
(2) low		
(1) very low		

Comments:_____
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13. To what extent are leaders encouraged to make tough decisions that are in the national interest?

Long-term reforms may be necessary for a country but may have drawbacks in the short term. In contrast, short-term populist measures may be harmful in the long run.

	5 years ago	**Now**
(5) very high		
(4) high		
(3) moderate		
(2) low		
(1) very low		

Comments:_____
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14. To what extent does the military accept its subordination to a civilian government?

On one hand, the military may play a professional role without engaging in politics. At the other extreme, the military might be entrenched in power. Or the military may exercise influence by infiltrating the political realm in other ways.

	5 years ago	**Now**
(5) very high		
(4) high		
(3) moderate		
(2) low		
(1) very low		

Comments:_____
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15. To what extent is the government committed to peaceful resolution of internal conflicts?

An emphasis on peaceful resolution of conflicts within countries is important for personal security as well as for national stability and economic development. Alternatively, governments may incite or use conflict for reasons that are harmful to the security and life of individual citizens.

	5 years ago	**Now**
(5) very high		
(4) high		
(3) moderate		
(2) low		
(1) very low		

Comments:_____
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We would appreciate any further comments on the issues affecting overall stewardship of the governance realm. What are some priorities for reform in your country? What important issues does the questionnaire not cover?

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PART IV: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, ESPECIALLY THE BUREAUCRACY

16. To what extent are higher civil servants part of the policy-making process?

The extent to which power is given to specialized agencies to formulate policy indicates a strong role for bureaucrats. The existence of deep layers of political appointments in the bureaucracy would indicate a lesser role.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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17. To what extent is there a merit-based system for recruitment into the civil service?

The degree of merit in the rules guiding recruitment has long been regarded as a key issue for successful policy implementation, regulation and provision of services. This could include a specific exam, the need to have objective entry requirements or an independent body on public service employment.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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18. To what extent are civil servants accountable for their actions?

The degree of accountability of civil servants - for corruption or other forms of misuse of public office - is an important indicator of governance. Audits, ombudsman institutions, public censure or courts, if effective, are mechanisms of how civil service accountability can be exercised.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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19. To what extent are there clear decision-making processes in the civil service?

Clear rules could reduce or eliminate the risk of misuse of public office whereas unclear rules could encourage it. The rules could be in the form of a code of conduct, informal systems or the presence of laws that make official documents open to the public.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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20. To what extent is there equal access to public services?

The state may make extra effort to ensure equal access to public services, in remote areas or marginalized groups. In contrast, certain groups or regions may not have any access to services.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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We would appreciate any further comments on the issues affecting policy implementation, particularly the bureaucracy. What are some priorities for reform in your country? What important issues does the questionnaire not cover?

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PART V: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE MARKET.

21. To what extent do persons in public office promote respect for property rights?

Those in positions of public authority have a vital role in ensuring that property rights, whether private, common or public, are respected. This would include not directly appropriating property and by providing protection from crime or other threats to property.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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22. To what extent are economic regulations applied equally to firms in the economy?

Applying and enforcing regulations equally is important for the business climate. The other extreme is where regulations are applied in an ad hoc manner or where special treatment is given to cronies of those in power.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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23. To what extent is obtaining a business license associated with corrupt transactions?

The issue here is whether a business license can be obtained in a straightforward and transparent manner or does it involve a number of other transactions that go contrary to the stated rules and regulations.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(1)	very high		
(2)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(4)	low		
(5)	very low		

Comments:_____
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24. To what extent is there consultation on policy between public and private sector actors?

Issues relevant here include, among others, the existence and nature of consultation committees and whether firms or business associations are systematically consulted about potential changes in economic policy.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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25. To what extent does the government take the new rules of global trade, finance and technology flows into account when formulating policy?

International economic interactions (trade, finance and technology flows) have become an increasingly significant factor in national development. The challenge is how to manage these processes so as to enhance the benefits and reduce the negative effects upon people.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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We would appreciate any further comments on the issues affecting the relationship between the state and the market. What are some priorities for reform in your country? What important issues does the questionnaire not cover?

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PART VI: DISPUTE RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY THE JUDICIARY

26. To what extent is there equal access to justice for citizens?

Legal aid and other services may make the judicial arena a more even playing field for all citizens. In contrast, citizens may be prevented from going to court for security, financial or other reasons.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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27. To what extent are there clear decision-making processes in the judicial system?

If procedures are clear and are systematically followed, it is likely to make the role that the judiciary plays more respected. Decision-making includes not just what happens in the courtroom but all other aspects associated with a legal case, including for example the way evidence is collected.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____
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28. To what extent are judicial officials accountable for their actions?

Decisions may not be made in an objective manner, due to reasons of political interference or corruption for example. Mechanisms such as appeal, judicial review and special inquiries, if effective, are examples of how legal service accountability can be exercised.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
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(1)	very low		

Comments:_____

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29. To what extent are international legal norms in the human rights field being incorporated into the national rights regime?

Partly at stake here is whether governments sign and ratify international human rights conventions. More important, however, is the degree to which the legal profession incorporates the agreed international norms into the national legal system.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
(2)	low		
(1)	very low		

Comments:_____

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30. To what extent are non-judicial processes in place for fair resolution of conflicts?

Conflicts arise at different levels and societies develop varied institutional arrangements to cater for these eventualities. The extent and importance of such arrangements, through NGOs or community groups for example, is an important governance concern.

		5 years ago	**Now**
(5)	very high		
(4)	high		
(3)	moderate		
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Comments:_____

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We would appreciate any further comments on the issues affecting dispute resolution, especially the judiciary. What are some priorities for reform in your country? What important issues does the questionnaire not cover?

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OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS

Thank you very much for sharing your expertise. We would appreciate any thoughts you might like to add on the issue of governance in your country. We would also appreciate any suggestions for how to make the questionnaire clearer and more useful.

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