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Welcome to the November edition of World Watch. This update of global country risk developments is brought to you by the regional specialists of the Country Risk Services Group. World Watch's useful pointers to risk management issues are explored in more detail in D&B's unique journal, International Risk & Payment Review, which covers over 130 countries, and also on an individual basis in D&B Country RiskLine reports, both of which are updated on a monthly basis.

AFRICA	
Algeria	Falling natural gas production has a detrimental effect on economic growth.
Angola	The 2010 budget looks to continue the rehabilitation of the country's infrastructure, but sovereign risks will remain high.
Botswana	Rising inflation and weaker exports undermine the country's risk outlook.
Cameroon	Although exports have increased, the scarcity of basic commodities illustrates the country's economic difficulties.
Congo, D.R.	A ban on provincial mining activities will not end the link between minerals exports and extreme insecurity in the east of the country.
Cote d'Ivoire	Gbagbo is likely to be declared winner after the presidential run-off election, but the political climate will remain challenging.
Ethiopia	A new five-year development plan will create investment opportunities, but operating risks remain very high.
Gabon	Diversification is urgently needed in order to reduce the economy's reliance on oil.
Ghana	The central bank leaves interest rates unchanged amid increased financing risks.
Kenya	Higher-than-expected economic growth increases confidence in the country's prospects.
Libya	A power struggle within the regime raises significant political risk.
Malawi	The central bank introduces foreign exchange controls, contrary to a key government objective under an IMF programme.
Mauritius	Bank lending conditions remain tight despite the introduction of a fiscal stimulus programme.
Morocco	The economic outlook is uncertain due to the mixed performance of the business sector.
Mozambique	The government is struggling to contain the inflation pressures that have provoked social unrest.
Namibia	Low inflation raises the possibility of another interest rate cut to support the economy.
Nigeria	Parliament delays the next general election, while tensions in the ruling party mount, fuelling political uncertainty.
Senegal	The president takes steps to deal with the country's urgent electricity supply problems.
Sierra Leone	Security risks are elevated in the wake of violence in neighbouring Guinea.

South Africa	The economy continues to recover, but concerns over the global outlook mean that domestic demand remains weak.
Sudan	A likely delay of the referendum on the independence of South Sudan is raising tensions.
Tanzania	Policy continuity is assured following electoral victories for the incumbent president and ruling party.
Tunisia	The economic recovery slows due to easing foreign demand and sluggish private consumption.
Uganda	A tax dispute between the government and oil companies is stalling the country's oil industry development.
Zambia	D&B upgrades Zambia's country risk rating amid a favourable macroeconomic outlook and growing investor interest.
Zimbabwe	President Mugabe gives a strong signal that elections will go ahead in 2011, but continues to oppose a new constitution.
ASIA PACIFIC	
Afghanistan	The final outcome of the parliamentary election is likely to increase political uncertainty.
Australia	The Reserve Bank anticipates a 'large expansionary shock' for the economy.
Bangladesh	D&B upgrades Bangladesh's country risk rating in recognition of the continued strong performance of its key garments sector.
Cambodia	The garment and tourism sectors are on a growth trajectory but political and commercial risks dominate.
China	Consumer confidence comes under threat as rising inflation hits a two-year high.
Fiji	Tourism and remittances are bright spots but investment spending remains weak and the sugar industry is troubled.
Hong Kong	The near-term economic outlook is very positive amid steady inflows of capital from the mainland.
India	The economy continues to gather pace in the wake of strong domestic demand.
Indonesia	The economic outlook remains resilient amid national disasters.
Japan	Economic prospects remain dim, with growth expected to slow considerably in 2011.
Korea (South)	South Korea's risk outlook deteriorates following an artillery attack by its northern neighbour.
Malaysia	The outlook could deteriorate amid slowing export growth and the halting of the country's reform programme.
Myanmar	The outlook improves following November's military-dominated general election.
Nepal	The economy continues its poor performance due to ongoing political uncertainty, high inflation and weak external demand.
New Zealand	The pace of economic recovery appears to be slowing as households and firms tighten budgets.
Pakistan	The economy suffers a serious setback as a result of the devastating flooding earlier in 2010.
Papua New Guinea	Signs of economic recovery continue to emerge, along with a more stable risk profile.
Philippines	D&B upgrades the Philippines' country risk rating amid a range of positive developments.

Singapore	The pace of the county's recovery has peaked and domestic cost pressures are rising.
Sri Lanka	The government's 2011 budget includes a number of favourable tax reforms.
Taiwan	The central bank hikes its policy rate but the move poses further risks to the business climate.
Thailand	D&B upgrades Thailand's country risk rating due to a swift economic recovery following the instability of early 2010.
Vietnam	The government's pro-growth policies are exacerbating economic imbalances that could lead to another devaluation.
EASTERN EUROPE	
Albania	The country's EU candidacy is thwarted by ongoing domestic political turmoil.
Azerbaijan	The parliamentary election result increases political stability but also heightens commercial risk.
Belarus	Incumbent Alexander Lukashenko looks guaranteed to win the December presidential election.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	The outcome of the national elections clouds the political risk outlook.
Bulgaria	The government announces that it will take the next step towards euro-zone membership, but accession is unlikely before 2015.
Croatia	The government survives a no-confidence vote but the political climate continues to deteriorate.
Czech Republic	The economic recovery driven by growth in manufacturing and exports is unlikely to be sustained.
Estonia	The economic outlook remains positive despite slower quarterly output growth.
Georgia	Recent constitutional reforms could jeopardise the country's democratic development.
Hungary	Quarterly economic growth is higher than expected, but forthcoming tax increases will have negative effects on investment.
Kazakhstan	A customs union with Russia and Belarus is set to boost exports.
Kyrgyz Republic	The political outlook is highly uncertain in light of an election recount and public demonstrations.
Latvia	The outlook remains positive despite the slower pace of the recovery.
Lithuania	The economic outlook remains positive as output growth is revised upward.
Macedonia	The economic recovery continues, although there are concerns over the country's forecast fiscal deficit.
Poland	Further expansion in the manufacturing sector bodes well for the economic outlook.
Romania	The country secures another EUR900m in funding after a successful review by the IMF.
Russian Federation	Economic growth will rebound from the effects of the wheat crisis, but prospects for 2011 are still uncertain.
Serbia	The central bank further tightens monetary policy in a bid to combat inflationary pressures.
Slovak Republic	Continued fiscal consolidation is essential in light of the fall-out from the Irish debt crisis.

Slovenia	External demand appears to be slowing down and domestic demand is also weak.
Tajikistan	The economic outlook improves, but there are still considerable downside risks.
Turkmenistan	The country's medium-term outlook receives a boost from a positive IMF assessment.
Ukraine	Recent election results increase political stability, albeit with ambiguous effects on the commercial environment.
Uzbekistan	Economic growth increases strongly as all the key sectors perform well.
MIDDLE EAST	
Bahrain	Hopes rise that the new parliament will promote a more business-friendly programme.
Egypt	The economic outlook remains relatively strong, despite the first signs of slowing growth.
Iran	Short-term tensions could be eased by Iran's agreement to fresh talks over the nuclear issue.
Iraq	The short-term political outlook improves with the formation of a new government but significant problems remain.
Israel	The increasing risk of a property price bubble threatens economic stability.
Jordan	Concerns over social instability emerge amid an election marred by violence and irregularities.
Kuwait	Rising political tensions weigh negatively on the country risk outlook.
Lebanon	The UN tribunal's investigation into the killing of the country's former prime minister could see fresh sectarian violence.
Oman	The government plans major investment in the tourism and infrastructure sectors over the next two years.
Qatar	The rising stock market highlights investors' rapidly increasing confidence in the Qatari economy.
Saudi Arabia	The outlook for business activity remains positive.
Syria	The US sanctions regime remains a major obstacle to doing business.
UAE	The weakened real estate sector continues to cause problems for the country's banking system.
Yemen	Terrorist violence remains a key threat to the personnel and capital assets of Western companies.
THE AMERICAS	
Argentina	Political and economic risks look set to continue to jeopardise the business environment.
Bolivia	The government unveils its strategy and plans for lithium mining.
Brazil	We expect newly-elected President Dilma Rousseff to maintain the current policy agenda.
Canada	The economy still faces the challenges of high consumer indebtedness, weak US growth and currency appreciation.
Chile	Rapid economic growth and stable regulatory frameworks increase business opportunities in a number of sectors.

Colombia	The economic outlook remains positive, while market confidence should be maintained by prudent fiscal policy and high levels of FX reserves.
Costa Rica	After a marked quarterly contraction, economic performance will remain subdued over the remainder of 2010.
Cuba	Inadequate inflows of foreign exchange ensure that payment and default risks will remain elevated into 2011.
Dominican Republic	The economic outlook improves as a result of an IMF stabilisation programme.
Ecuador	A widening of the trade deficit increases the risk of a balance of payments crisis.
El Salvador	The economy is set to expand overall in 2010, but growth is still weak and unevenly distributed.
Guatemala	The economic outlook weakens due to the damage and economic losses caused by recent natural disasters.
Honduras	The political outlook deteriorates as socio-political tensions increase and the government faces mounting opposition.
Jamaica	Economic conditions improve but the pace of remittance growth is moderating.
Mexico	A tight fiscal policy should avoid an increase in sovereign risk over the short term.
Nicaragua	The economy is recovering gradually but the political backdrop remains negative.
Panama	Despite the government's reformist agenda, increased opposition could thwart pro-business policies.
Paraguay	Political uncertainty and rising concerns over fiscal sustainability continue to cloud the risk outlook.
Peru	Economic growth remains robust, with low inflation adding to stability.
Trinidad & Tobago	The economic recovery remains subdued, but government spending and the energy sector should prompt improvements in 2011.
USA	Economic activity is still likely to remain well below pre-crisis levels for much of 2011.
Uruguay	D&B upgrades Uruguay's country risk rating as the business environment continues to improve.
Venezuela	Following a return to growth, the economy contracts due to a reduction in oil output.
WESTERN EUROPE	
Austria	The economy expands at a healthy pace and prospects for 2011 are positive.
Belgium	Renewed financial market turmoil over sovereign risk in the euro-zone highlights the risk of contagion.
Cyprus	Tax increases are likely after the general elections in May 2011.
Denmark	The economic outlook deteriorates amid slower monthly indicators and fears over lower growth in Euroland.
Finland	The recovery remains on track, with no obvious fall-out from the euro-zone debt crisis.
France	D&B upgrades France's country risk rating as social unrest subsides, but the risk outlook remains fragile.
Germany	The economy looks increasingly resilient to downside risks deriving from weaker global demand.

Greece	A deepening recession and increasing political instability continue to dim the economic outlook.
Iceland	The central bank lowers the key interest rate due to slowing inflation.
Ireland	Country risk remains elevated despite the large stand-by arrangement provided by the EU and the IMF.
Italy	The government crisis weighs negatively on the political and economic risk outlook.
Luxembourg	The coalition government fails to agree on reform of the over-regulated labour market.
Malta	Several downside risks are set to slow the pace of the economic recovery.
Netherlands	Weak economic growth data highlight the fragility of the recovery.
Norway	Mixed economic data point towards greater uncertainty over the recovery.
Portugal	Business prospects look increasingly gloomy amid increased contagion risks from the Irish debt crisis.
Spain	The macroeconomic outlook remains weak and the business environment will be fragile during our forecast period.
Sweden	The political outlook remains positive despite the government's lack of a majority after September's election.
Switzerland	The mild slowdown continues but economic growth forecasts remain positive.
Turkey	The economic recovery continues but security risk heightens following a suicide bombing in Istanbul.
United Kingdom	Although the economy is not slowing as quickly as had been forecast, we expect growth to slow further going into 2011.