

### Key messages

- Signs suggest that the global economic growth spurt has peaked, but according to the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019, growth will remain steady at 3 per cent in 2019-2020.
- However, risks to the outlook are building, and economic growth is uneven and is often failing to reach the regions and individuals where it is most needed.
- GDP per capita growth is expected to stagnate or remain very low in several parts of Africa, Western Asia and Latin America.
- Poverty eradication targets require dramatic shifts in both economic growth and inequality, especially in Africa.
- While unemployment rates are at historical lows in developed economies, those with low incomes have seen no growth in income for a decade.
- Global trade tensions continue to pose a threat to the economic outlook and impacts in some sectors are already apparent.
- Rising levels of global debt pose a threat to the financial sustainability of growth - countries with high levels of dollar-denominated debt are particularly vulnerable to financial stress.
- Transition towards sustainable patterns of production and consumption is not happening fast enough - climate risks continue to intensify, and the human cost of disasters falls overwhelmingly on low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

#### About the report:

*The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019 is a report produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the five UN regional commissions. The UN World Tourism Organization and staff from the International Labour Organization also contributed to the report. For more information, please visit: [www.bit.ly/wespreport](http://www.bit.ly/wespreport)*

#### Media contact:

UN Department of Global Communications  
Dan Shepard, T: +1 (212) 963-9495 | E: [shepard@un.org](mailto:shepard@un.org)