Global economic growth to be around 3% this year: UN forecast

The Global Economic Outlook report released by the United Nations on January 23, 2019, forecasts a global economic growth of around 3% this year, indicating a slowdown from the 3.7% growth witnessed in 2018. The report, which covers the period from the first quarter of 2019 to the first quarter of 2020, highlights the challenges faced by the global economy, including trade tensions, monetary policy tightening, and rising debt levels.

"The world economy is forecast to grow by 3% in 2019, which is below trend," said Liu He, vice minister of the National Development and Reform Commission of China and co-chair of the UN chief economist group, at a press briefing in New York on January 23. "The outlook for 2020 and 2021 is somewhat more uncertain, with risks skewed to the downside." He also pointed out that the US-China trade war and monetary tightening in China and other countries are major challenges.

The report projects that the eurozone economy will grow by 1.5% in 2019 and 1.6% in 2020, while the Chinese economy is expected to grow by 5.9% in 2019 and 5.8% in 2020. The US economy is forecast to grow by 2.3% in 2019 and 2.2% in 2020, while Brazil's economy is expected to grow by 1.3% in 2019.

The report also highlights the risks facing the global economy, including the possibility of a US recession, the ongoing trade war, and the risk of a global debt crisis.

"The global economy is facing a variety of risks and uncertainties," said Liu. "We need to strengthen international cooperation and coordination to ensure the stability and growth of the global economy." He also called for a more open and inclusive international economic order.

The report is the United Nations' annual forecast of the global economy, and is prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).