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Strong Worldwide Support for New International Institutions and Agreements Led by Democratic Countries

Ipsos poll for Halifax International Security Forum highlights concerns about compliance by China, U.S. and Russia

Toronto, ON, November 21, 2021 – As the world faces an ongoing pandemic, climate change, and multiple international crises, support for new international institutions and agreements has become nearly unanimous, according to the 12th annual Ipsos global poll for the Halifax International Security Forum. Across 28 countries recently surveyed, an average of 83% say the world needs new international institutions and agreements that are led by democratic countries. Nearly as many, 78%, agree they would have more respect for global institutions or agreements if democratic nations had more influence over them than authoritarian nations. The survey also finds China, the United States, and Russia are the three countries viewed as least likely to comply with any new international agreements and institutions.

These are some of the findings of a survey of more than 22,000 adults conducted on Ipsos' Global Advisor online platform between September 24 and October 8, 2021.

Increased respect for democratically influenced institutions and agreements

The proportion of citizens agreeing they would have more respect for global institutions or agreements if democratic nations had more influence over them than authoritarian nations increased since last year in 19 of the 28 countries surveyed, with gains of ten points or more in 11 of them. Countries showing the largest increases in agreement from last year are Sweden (+33 points to 80%), the Netherlands (+29 to 73%), Belgium (+28 to 80%), South Korea (+27 to 85%), and Germany (+26 to 76%). The three countries showing decreases from last year are Australia (-7 to 76%), Canada (-7 to 75%), and Malaysia (-7 to 84%). All other countries show changes of no more than +/- 3 points.

Greater respect for democratic nation-led-institutions and agreements is expressed by a large majority of adults in every country surveyed: from 86% in India to 65% in Japan, including 75% in Canada and 71% in the United States, as well as 83% in China, 78% in Saudi Arabia, 76% in Turkey, and 72% in Russia.

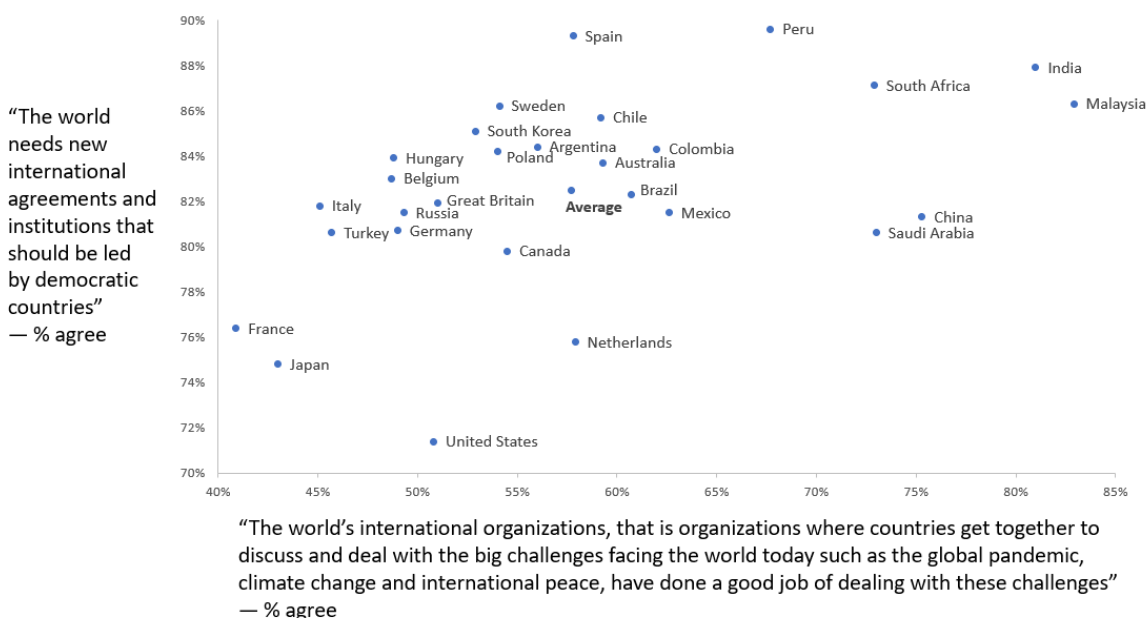
Satisfaction with current institutions, but a desire for something new

A global country average of 58% agree the world's current international organizations have done a good job dealing with challenges such as the global pandemic, climate change, and international peace. However, satisfaction with existing organizations varies widely across countries. It is

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expressed by at least three in four adults surveyed in India, Malaysia, and China, but fewer than half in France, Japan, Italy, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, and Russia.

There is a stronger desire for something new with a global country average of 83% endorsing the view that the world needs new international agreements and institutions led by democratic countries – from 71% in the United States to 90% in Peru.



Skepticism about compliance

However, if new international institutions and agreements were created to deal with big challenges facing the world today, the countries that would be least expected to comply with them are perceived are, in order, China (cited by a global country average of 32%), the U.S. (24%), Russia (21%), Afghanistan (12%), North Korea (9%), and Iran (8%). No other country was named by more than an average of 5%.

Economic might over force

Across 28 countries surveyed, an average of 78% say economic power is more important than military power in world affairs, unchanged since last year. This view is held by a majority of adults in all countries surveyed. Citizens of South Africa (84%), Belgium (83%), Sweden (82%), and Argentina (82%) are the most likely to hold this view, while those in the U.S. (64%), the Netherlands (69%), Great Britain (73%), Australia (74%), and Canada (75%) are the least likely to do so. This opinion has become more prevalent since last year with only two countries showing an increase in

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this view: South Korea (4 percentage points to 81%) and Mexico (76%), while it is less widely held in Great Britain (-8 to 73%), Australia (-7 to 74%), Peru (-7 to 76%), and South Africa (-7 to 84%).

Average % of citizens across 28 countries who believe economic power in world affairs is more important than military power

	2021	Change since 2020
South Africa	84%	-7
Belgium	83%	+2
Sweden	82%	-2
Argentina	82%	-1
South Korea	81%	+4
Turkey	81%	+1
India	81%	-2
Italy	80%	0
Hungary	80%	0
Malaysia	80%	-2
France	80%	0
Spain	80%	-1
Germany	79%	+1
Chile	79%	-2
Colombia	79%	+1
Russia	78%	-3
Poland	78%	+1
Japan	77%	-1
Mexico	76%	+4
Brazil	76%	+1
Saudi Arabia	76%	-4
Peru	76%	-7
Canada	75%	-6
Australia	74%	-7
Great Britain	73%	-8
Netherlands	69%	-6
United States	64%	-6

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About the Study

These are the results of a 28-market survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform. Ipsos interviewed a total of 22,016 adults aged 18-74 in the United States, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, and Turkey, and adults aged 16-74 in 23 other markets between Friday, September 24 and Friday, October 8, 2021.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals in each of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, mainland China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the U.S., and 500 individuals in each of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, India, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, and Turkey.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S. can be taken as representative of their general adult population under the age of 75.

The samples in Brazil, Chile, mainland China, Colombia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these countries should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of their population.

The data is weighted so that each country’s sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

“The Global Country Average” reflects the average result for all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result.

Where results do not sum to 100 or the ‘difference’ appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of “don’t know” or not stated responses.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos’ use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

The publication of these findings abides by local rules and regulations.

For more information on this news release, please contact:

Darrell Bricker
Global Service Line Leader, Public Affairs, Ipsos
+1 416 324-2001
Darrell.Bricker@ipsos.com



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About Ipsos

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Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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