Peoples' Climate Vote

RESULTS

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
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On climate change, UNDP has the largest portfolio in the UN system and works with over 140 countries around the world. UNDP, through its Climate Promise, supports 115 countries to enhance their climate change pledges – Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs – under the Paris Agreement.

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"The survey brings the voice of the people to the forefront of the climate debate. It signals ways in which countries can move forward with public support as we work together to tackle this enormous challenge."

**Achim Steiner, Administrator,
United Nations Development Programme**

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Executive Summary

With 1.2 million respondents, the Peoples' Climate Vote is the largest survey of public opinion on climate change ever conducted. Using a new and unconventional approach to polling, results span 50 countries[1] covering 56% of the world's population[2]. Poll questions were distributed through advertisements in mobile game apps in 17 languages, which resulted in a huge, unique, and random sample of people of all genders, ages, and educational backgrounds.

The Peoples' Climate Vote is a pillar of the Mission 1.5 campaign launched in 2020 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to educate people about climate change solutions and ask them about the actions that they think governments should take. The aim of the Peoples' Climate Vote was to connect the public to policymakers – and to provide the latter with reliable information on whether people considered climate change an emergency, and how they would like their countries to respond.

These perspectives are needed now more than ever as countries around the world are in the process of developing new national climate pledges – known as Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs – under the Paris Agreement. As the world's largest provider of support to countries for NDC design, UNDP has found that a key factor for countries raising levels of climate ambition is popular support for policies that address climate change.

With the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the Peoples' Climate Vote took on added meaning by providing insight into perceptions about the climate crisis in the context of a global pandemic. Many of the policy choices in the Peoples' Climate Vote – whether relating to jobs, energy, protecting nature or company regulation – speak to issues that countries are facing as they chart their recoveries.

In the vote, people were asked about their belief in the climate emergency and which policies, across six areas - energy, economy, transportation, farms and food, protecting people, and nature – that they would like their government to enact. Results are analyzed across country groups (high-income, middle-income, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)), regions, demographics (gender, age, and education levels), and country-by-country.

The results were collated and processed by analysts at the University of Oxford, who weighted the data to create representative estimates of public opinion. With such a large sample size, and rich socio-demographic information, **the margin of error of the results is on average +/- 2%**.

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1   Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam. Note that not all representative results for all questions and all demographic groups are available for every country.

2   Based on the population of countries over the age of 14. It is assumed that fewer people will have completed the survey under the age of 14. Since there are 2 billion people under the age of 14, this makes a considerable difference to population coverage.

The results offer a comprehensive view on how people think about climate change and climate action, that has never been available before in many countries. Even in many countries that have an understanding of overall public sentiment on climate change, it is the first time that detailed questions have been asked about policy solutions on this scale. There was also high participation by people who are sometimes hard to reach in polling, such as young people below the age of 18.

Major findings of the Peoples' Climate Vote include:

- **Even though the survey was conducted during the COVID-19 crisis, there was still widespread recognition of climate change as a global emergency in every country surveyed.** Over all 50 countries, 64% of people said that climate change was an emergency – presenting a clear and convincing call for decision-makers to step up on ambition.

  - The highest level of support was in SIDS (74%), followed by high-income countries (72%), middle-income countries (62%), then LDCs (58%).

  - Regionally, the proportion of people who said climate change is a global emergency had a high level of support everywhere - in Western Europe and North America (72%), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (65%), Arab States (64%), Latin America and Caribbean (63%), Asia and Pacific (63%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (61%).

  - Of the people that said climate change is a global emergency, 59% said that the world should do everything necessary and urgently in response. Meanwhile 20% said we should act slowly, while 10% percent of people thought the world is already doing enough.

- Respondents were asked which policies – out of a total of 18 that covered energy, economy, transportation, food and farms, nature, and protecting people from climate impacts – that governments should enact to address the climate emergency.

Four climate policies emerged as the most popular globally:

1. **Conservation of forests and land** (54% public support);

2. **Solar, wind and renewable power** (53%);

3. **Climate-friendly farming techniques** (52%); and

4. **Investing more in green businesses and jobs** (50%).

- Country-by-country analysis provides further insights into the world's most popular climate policies, for example:

  - **In countries with high emissions from deforestation and land-use change, there was strong backing for conserving forests and land.** Four out of five countries in the survey with the highest emissions from land-use change saw majority support for conserving forests and land, including Brazil (60%), Indonesia (57%) and Argentina (57%).

    Clear calls for renewable energy in higher emitting countries. People backed renewable energy in eight of the ten survey countries with the highest emissions from the electricity/ heating sectors, including the United States (65%), the biggest emitter surveyed, as well as Australia (76%), Canada (73%), Germany (71%), South Africa (69%), Japan (68%), Poland (57%), and Russia (51%).

  - **Broad support for climate-friendly farming internationally, but mixed results in surveyed countries with the largest agricultural sectors.** Climate-friendly farming was the third most popular climate policy overall, including among people in Indonesia (60%), the Philippines (56%), Ecuador (53%), and Egypt (51%), all of which have the largest contributions of the agriculture sector to their economies.

  - **There is majority support in nearly all G20 countries polled for more investment in green businesses and jobs**, led by the United Kingdom (73%), followed by Germany, Australia and Canada (all 68%), South Africa (65%), Italy (64%), Japan (59%), United States (57%), France, (56%), and Argentina, Brazil, and Indonesia (all 51%).

  - **Making companies pay for pollution had high support in seven of twelve high-income countries**, led by the United Kingdom (72%) and Canada (69%).

  - **Nine out of ten of the countries with the most urbanized populations backed clean transport.** These include substantial majorities in Chile (58%), Japan (57%), and the United States (56%). Clean transportation was the fifth most popular climate policy overall.

  - **Infrastructure to protect people from extreme weather events was the seventh most popular climate policy across all countries.** Support for early warning systems was at roughly

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