



POLL

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Public Narrowly Backs UN Recognition of Palestine: Global Poll

As debate continues over whether the Palestinians should ask for a UN resolution recognising Palestine as an independent state, a new global poll for BBC World Service reveals that, in all 19 countries surveyed, more citizens would prefer to see their government vote to support the resolution than vote against it – although only by a modest margin in many countries.

The poll of 20,446 citizens conducted by GlobeScan shows that, while the public is five to two in favour, with three undecided, in only nine countries is there an outright majority of citizens in support of recognizing Palestine as a state.

Across the countries surveyed 49 per cent back the resolution, while 21 per cent say their government should oppose it, and a large proportion (30%) either say that it depends, that their government should abstain, or that they do not know what their government should do.

Support for recognition is strongest in Egypt, where 90 per cent are in favour and only nine per cent opposed. But there is also majority support in the other three predominantly Muslim countries polled – Turkey (60% support, 19% oppose), Pakistan (52% support, 12% oppose) and Indonesia (51% support, 16% oppose). Chinese people are the second most likely overall to favour their government voting for recognition of a Palestinian state, with 56 per cent in support, and just nine per cent opposed.

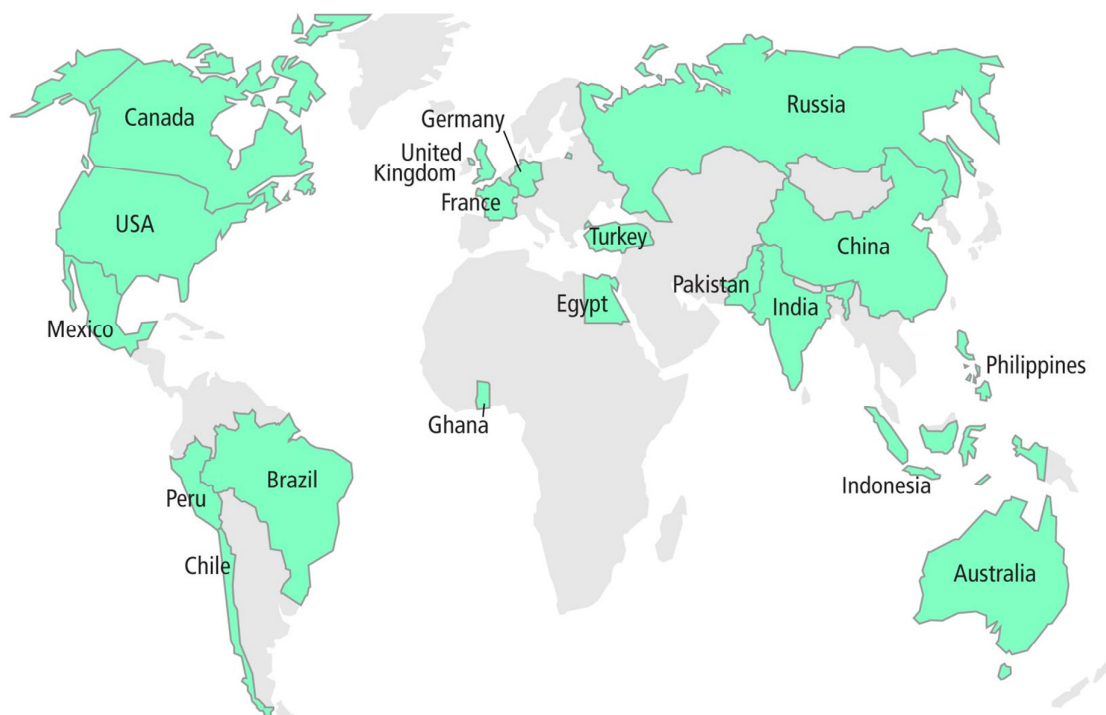
In terms of countries with a higher level of opposition, Americans (45% support, 36% oppose) and Indians (32% support, 25% opposed, with many undecided) are the most likely to prefer that their government vote against recognizing Palestine, along with Filipinos¹ (56% support vs 36% oppose) and Brazilians (41% support vs 26% oppose).

The results are drawn from a survey of 20,466 adult citizens across 19 countries. It was conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan. GlobeScan coordinated fieldwork between July 3, 2011 and August 29, 2011. Within-country results are considered accurate within +/- 2.1 to 3.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

GlobeScan Chairman Doug Miller commented: "If countries' citizens had a vote at the UN, the poll suggests that Palestine would receive official UN recognition. However, with many people undecided or opposed, domestic repercussions are unlikely if their governments choose to vote against recognition."

¹ It should be noted that the proportion of Filipinos favouring a 'for' vote is also amongst the highest in the poll. The high proportion of respondents falling into both camps is explained by very few respondents saying that 'it depends', their country should abstain, or that they 'do not know'.

Participating Countries



Detailed Findings

Public opinion in the three EU Member States included in the poll is strikingly similar on this issue: France (54% support vs 20% oppose), Germany (53% vs 28%) and the UK (53% vs 26%).

Russian public opinion is at variance with this picture, however, with over half not giving a definite answer and believing that 'it depends', that their country should abstain, or simply not being able to offer a view. Those favouring a 'for' vote outweigh their counterparts 'against' by a ratio of just under three to one (37% vs 13%), with the remainder undecided.

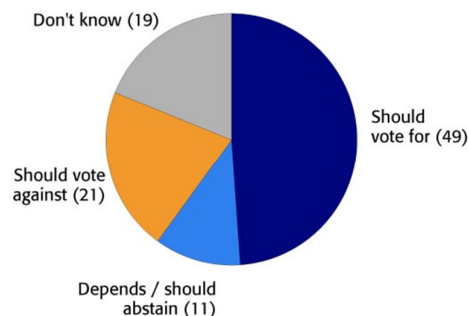
In Latin America, opinion is also equivocal, with much of the public undecided - particularly in Chile, with 52% in neither the 'for' nor 'against' camps. Nonetheless, the balance of opinion is still towards a vote for recognition rather than against. The percentage favouring a 'for' vote is highest in Mexico (45% vs 15%), followed by Brazil (41% vs 26%), Chile (39% vs 9%) and then Peru (38% vs 18%).

In Canada (46% vs 25%) and Australia (50% vs 17%), opinion is broadly in line with the global average.

Meanwhile, in Ghana there is a higher than average proportion advocating an 'against' vote (33%). This is the third-highest proportion seen in the poll after the US and the Philippines.

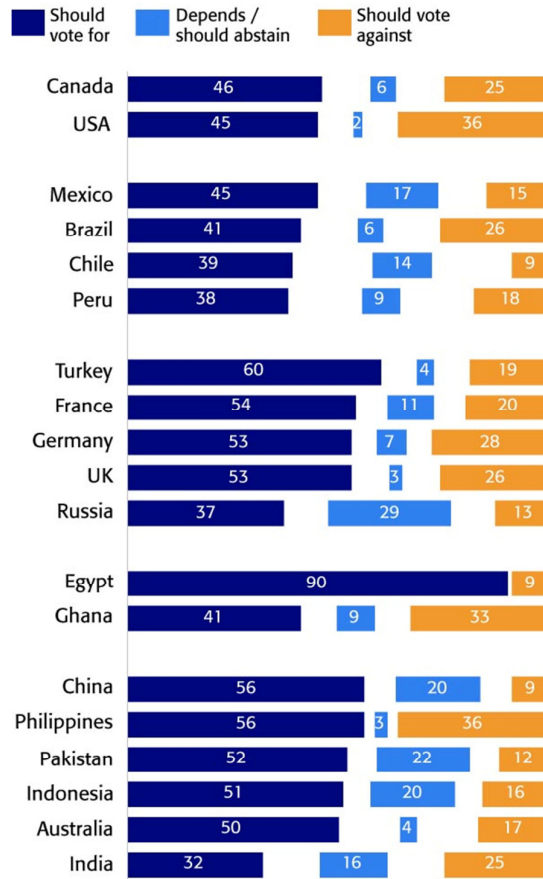
Opinion on How Country Should Vote on Recognition of Palestinian Territories as a State

19 countries, 2011



Opinion on How Country Should Vote on Recognition of Palestinian Territories as a State

By Country, 2011



The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

In total 20,466 citizens in 19 countries, were interviewed face-to-face, or by telephone between July 3, 2011 and August 29, 2011. Polling was conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan and its research partners in each country. In six of the 19 countries, the sample was limited to major urban areas. The margin of error per country ranges from +/- 2.1 to 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

For more details, please visit www.GlobeScan.com

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BBC World Service is an international multimedia broadcaster, delivering a wide range of language and regional services on radio, TV, online and via wireless handheld devices. It uses multiple platforms to reach its weekly audience of 180 million globally (2010), including shortwave, AM, FM, digital satellite and cable channels. Its news sites include audio and video content and offer opportunities to join the global debate. BBC World Service offers its multilingual radio content to partner FM stations around the world and has numerous partnerships supplying content to news websites, mobile phones and other wireless handheld devices as well as TV channels. For more information, visit bbcworldservice.com.

Questionnaire

M1. As you may know, the Palestinian Authority is planning to request that the UN General Assembly recognize the Palestinian Territories as a state and as a member of the UN. Do you think [RESPONDENT'S COUNTRY] should vote for or against this request?

- 01 Should vote for it
- 02 Should vote against it
- VOLUNTEERED**
- 03 It depends / should abstain
- 99 DK/NA

Methodology

In total 20,466 citizens in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States were interviewed face-to-face or by telephone between July 3, 2011 and August 29, 2011. Polling was conducted for BBC World Service by GlobeScan and its research partners in each country.

In Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, the Philippines and Turkey urban samples were used. The margin of error per country ranges from +/- 2.1 to 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Country	Sample Size (unweighted)	Field dates	Sample frame	Survey methodology	Type of sample
Australia	1207	August 5–7, 2011	18+	Telephone	National
Brazil	806	July 26 – August 15, 2011	18–69	Telephone	Urban ¹
Canada	1000	August 3–7, 2011	18+	Telephone	National
Chile	1200	August 18–29, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	National
China	1000	July 13–31, 2011	18+	Telephone	Urban ²
Egypt	1005	July 16–29, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ³
France	503	August 16–18, 2011	15+	Telephone	National
Germany	1013	July 8–27, 2011	16–70	Telephone	National
Ghana	1037	July 25 – August 20, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	National
India	1254	July 15–29, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	National
Indonesia	1000	July 3 – August 25, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁴
Mexico	1000	July 23 –28, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	National
Pakistan	2400	July 18 – August 8, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	National
Peru	1215	July 15–20, 2011	18–70	Face-to-face	National
Philippines	800	July 23 – August 8, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁵
Russia	1006	July 22 – August 10, 2011	18+	Face-to-face	National
Turkey	1000	July 5–18, 2011	15+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁶
United Kingdom	1000	July 6–August 23, 2011	18+	Telephone	National
USA	1000	July 8 – August 18, 2011	18+	Telephone	National

¹ In Brazil the survey was conducted in Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Curitiba, Goiânia, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and São Paulo, representing 18 per cent of the national population.

² In China the survey was conducted in Beijing, Beiliu, Chengdu, Dujiangyan, Fenyang, Fuyang, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Manzhouli, Quanzhou, Qijing, Shanghai, Shenyang, Shuangcheng, Wuhan, Xi'an, Xining, and Zhengzhou, representing 45 per cent of the national adult population.

³ In Egypt the survey was conducted in Alexandria, Cairo, Giza, and Shubra El-Kheima, representing 24 per cent of the national population.

⁴ In Indonesia the survey was conducted in Bandung, Jakarta, Makassar, Medan, and Surabaya, representing 27 per cent of the national adult population.

⁵ In the Philippines the survey was conducted in the National Capital Region, representing 27 per cent of the urban adult population.

⁶ In Turkey the survey was conducted in Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakir, Erzurum, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya, Samsun, and Zonguldak, representing 56 per cent of the national adult population.

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