

# At its darkest hour, is internationalism back?

Annual opinion polling of 22,000 people across 31 countries shows a resurgence in public support for international cooperation.

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# Summary

**For several years, public support for international cooperation has been in decline.<sup>1</sup> In 2026, that changed.**

Every year Global Nation commissions an Ipsos survey of over 22,000 people across 31 countries to track the strength of global public solidarity. We ask respondents to rate their agreement with three statements that together measure public commitment to international cooperation:

1. 'I consider myself more a citizen of the world than a citizen of the country I live in'
2. 'My taxes should go towards solving global problems'
3. 'For certain problems, like the environment, international institutions should have the right to enforce solutions'

Combined, these statements provide a robust test of public global solidarity as they assess the extent to which people feel part of a global community, whether that feeling is strong enough to want to contribute financially, and whether they want their country to be held accountable to a wider system of rules. Over the long term, if a large enough proportion of people agree with these statements, it should be expected that cooperation between countries to tackle international challenges, like conflict, climate change, and pandemics will strengthen.

The recent trend in our polling has been of declining agreement with all three.<sup>2</sup> This has been part of a wider trend of falling global solidarity that has been visible not only in public opinion but also in international development funding, diplomacy, and trade.<sup>3</sup>

In 2026, there is a surprising and very pronounced reversal of this downward trend in public opinion. Agreement rose across all three statements in the vast majority of countries, and across every demographic dimension; generation, income group, education level, and gender. Polarization has also decreased. In 2026 the proportion of the public in *disagreement*, including strong disagreement with the statements dropped, meaning the general public is warming to international cooperation, even those who were previously most sceptical.

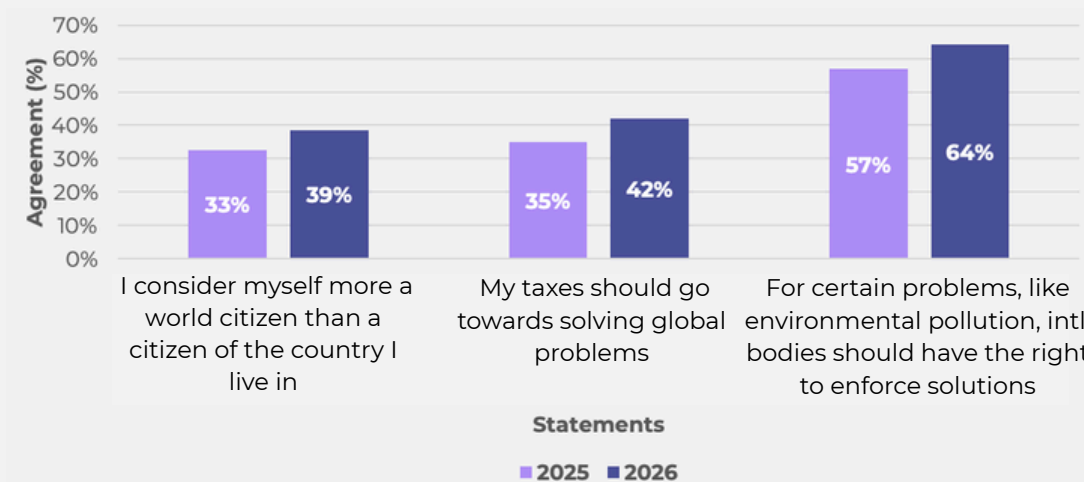
Why has internationalism increased at a time when conflict, trade wars and climate change have escalated? It seems that as the international order has ruptured, the public is increasingly keen on preserving, or rebuilding international cooperation. In the past year the world has watched the US instigate territorial threats to Greenland and Canada, capture and kill heads of state in Venezuela and Iran, and start trade wars across the world. People feel less safe and are worried about their economic outlook.<sup>4</sup> The shift in attitudes we see in this data should therefore be understood—at least in part—as a backlash against the American administration's violation of the laws and norms that had been keeping the world relatively stable. People are starting to appreciate the benefits of the international community that has often been taken for granted.

Now that the public has started to move, the question becomes whether governments can seize on this momentum to restore multilateralism and enforce rules that can keep the global public safe.

## In 2026, the public is turning back towards internationalism.

Across the 31 countries surveyed, the public is demonstrating a marked increase in global solidarity. Public agreement with *all three* internationalist statements increased in 24 of the countries, often by clear margins. In parallel, disagreement with the statements fell and now sits at lower levels than agreement.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1: Public support for global solidarity, 2025 vs 2026**

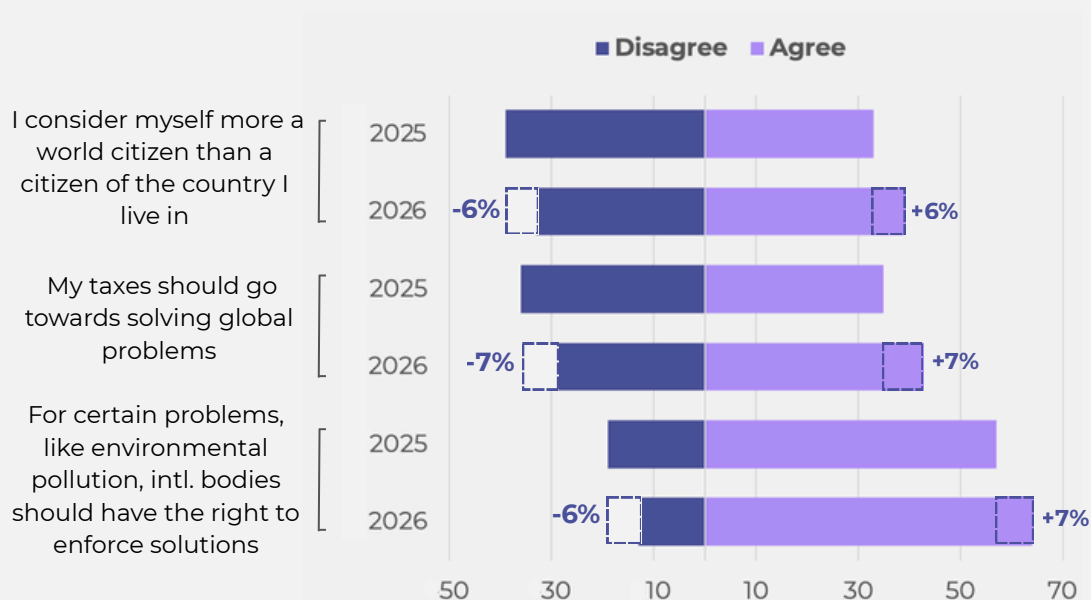


Source: Global Nation analysis based on data from Ipsos Global Advisor survey, 2026.

- **Four in ten people say they identify more as a citizen of the world than a citizen of their own country, up from a third in 2025.** The statement is phrased in this way to see if people have very strong global identities. In reality, most people who say they agree with this statement also feel patriotic about their country and there is no suggestion that patriotism is in tension with internationalism. But the proportion of people who agree with this strong statement reveals a growing sense of global belonging among the public in 2026.
- **More than four in ten people want their taxes to go help solve global problems, up from a little over a third in 2025.** Whether people are prepared to make a financial contribution at the global level is a real test of how much they believe in cooperation between countries on shared challenges. In difficult economic times, growing support for using taxes to address global problems demonstrates real strengthening desire to be part of a collective global effort.

- **Nearly two thirds of people think that for certain problems, like environmental pollution, international institutions should have the right to enforce solutions, up from a little over half in 2025.** There is clear and growing public appetite for international bodies that can constrain harmful actions by individual states. While international institutions have faced deep challenges in recent years, it is clear that people want them to exist and they want them to be effective.
- **Agreement was resilient across countries:** none saw declines across all three statements, only three saw declines on two statements,<sup>6</sup> and four on one.<sup>7</sup> (See annex for country level data).
- **Disagreement with these statements has fallen to the point where it is now lower than agreement.** Both identifying as a citizen of the world and supporting taxes being used to solve global problems have shifted from net disagreement in 2025 to net agreement in 2026. Fewer than three in ten now disagree that taxes should help address global problems, while three in ten disagree that they see themselves more as citizens of the world. Just one in ten oppose international institutions having enforcement powers. Strong disagreement with every statement has also declined since last year, suggesting that polarization is beginning to ease. (See annex for strong disagreement data).

**Figure 2: Change in public global solidarity, 2025 vs 2026**



Source: Global Nation analysis based on data from Ipsos Global Advisor survey, 2026.

## Every generation is becoming more internationalist, with Gen Z seeing the biggest shift.

Every generation – from Boomers to Gen Z – has increased its support for all three statements. Despite growing up in vastly different eras, they are reacting to the current moment in the same way.

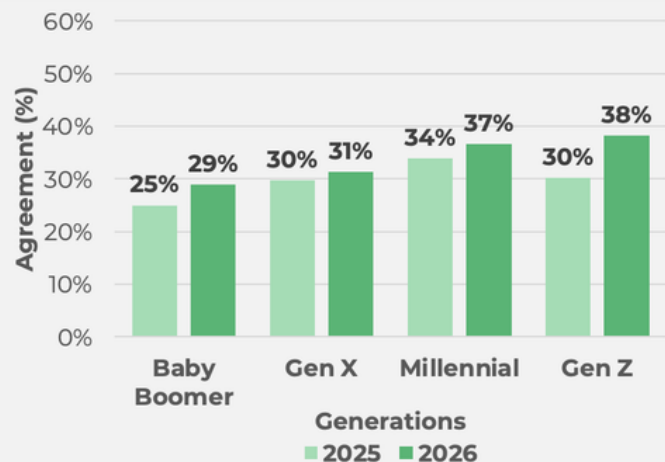
**Gen Z shows the largest shift, overtaking Millennials as the most internationalist generation.** Those identifying strongly as global citizens rose from three to almost four in ten. Their support for institutional enforcement powers rose from five to six in ten. While millennials had led on all three statements in 2025, Gen Z's gains have been large enough to make them the most supportive generation in 2026.

This matters beyond the immediate findings. Gen Z's attitudes are still forming and will become more fixed in the coming years. How they feel today about international cooperation is likely to shape their views for decades.

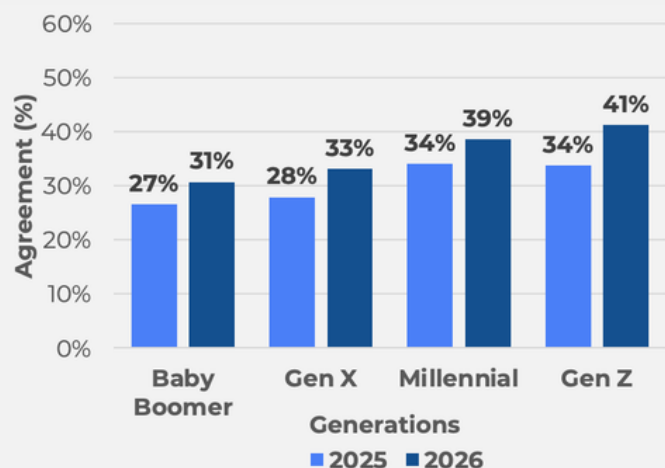
**Boomers are also moving, which is equally significant.** Attitudes in older generations tend to be the most entrenched, making any shift particularly notable. Baby boomers' support for international institutions powers rose from five to almost six in ten. Just over three in ten now want their taxes to go towards global problems, up slightly from under three in ten. And nearly three in ten feel more a global than national citizen, up from just over two in ten.

**Figure 3: Public support for global solidarity by generation, 2025 vs 2026**

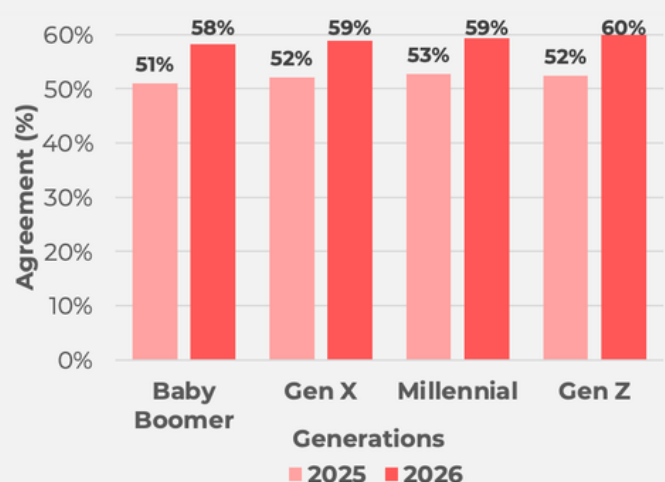
I consider myself more a world citizen than a citizen of the country I live in



My taxes should go towards solving global problems



For certain problems, like environmental pollution, international bodies should have the right to enforce solutions



# From high to low income households, internationalism is becoming stronger.

Every income group, from the lowest earners to the highest, increased or maintained agreement with all three statements. Despite their distinct economic realities, they are moving in the same direction.

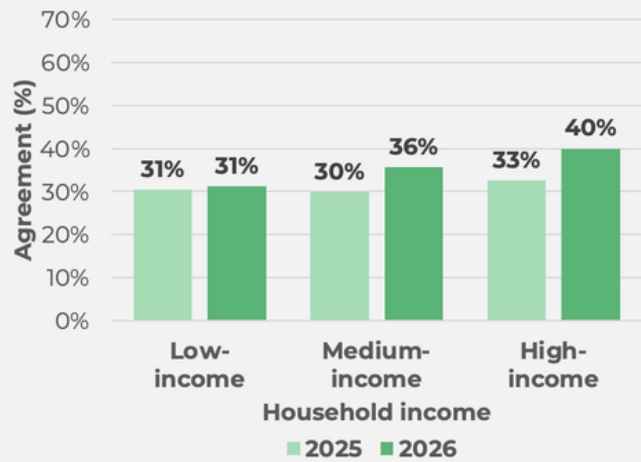
**High-income households show the strongest shift.** For the tax statement, agreement rose from three to more than four in ten - significant given these are the households that contribute most in tax. Support for international institutions rose from six to nearly seven in ten, and those identifying more as global than national citizens rose from three to four in ten.

**Middle-income households tell a closely parallel story.** Support for taxes to go towards global problems rose from three to nearly four in ten, international institutions from five to six in ten, and global citizenship from around three in ten to nearly four in ten. On every measure, middle-income attitudes track closer to high-income than to low-income households despite facing growing financial pressures in today's global economy. This matters because it challenges a common assumption: that support for global cooperation is a luxury of the financially comfortable.

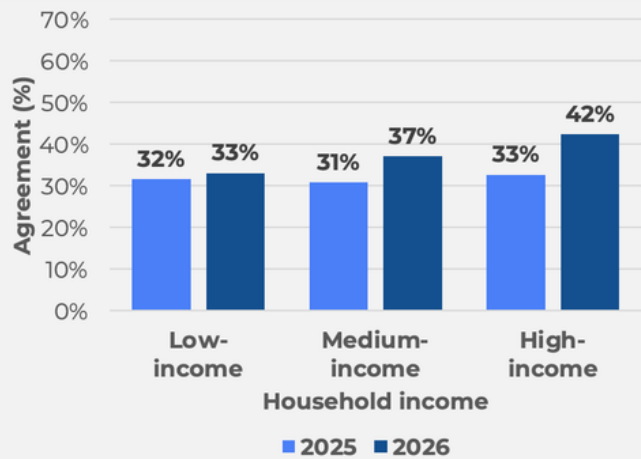
**Low-income households have shifted less – but they do bring a striking finding.** Unlike last year, a majority now want international institutions to have enforcement powers, crossing the fifty percent threshold. Three in ten both support tax contributions to global problems and feel a global citizen, a small but real increase. People facing the sharpest cost-of-living pressures are not retreating from internationalism, they are moving towards it.

**Figure 4: Public support for global solidarity by household income, 2025 vs 2026**

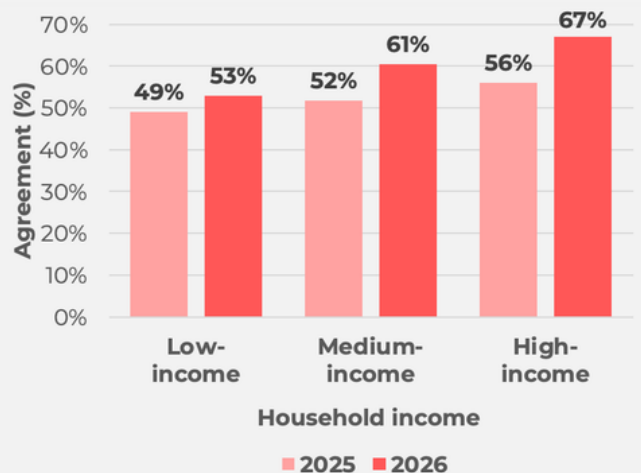
I consider myself more a world citizen than a citizen of the country I live in



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Source: Global Nation analysis based on data from Ipsos Global Advisor survey, 2026.

## At every level of educational attainment, support for internationalism is growing.

High education has long been one of the strongest predictors of internationalist attitudes. What is most significant in 2026 therefore is the fact that clear upward movement is visible both among the lowest and highest educated.

**The most striking finding is among those with the lowest levels of education.** Support for international institutions having enforcement powers rose from around four in ten to over five in ten shifting from net disagreement in 2025 to net agreement in 2026. These are people who are often assumed to be the core of anti-global movements.<sup>8</sup> The data suggests that assumption needs revisiting.

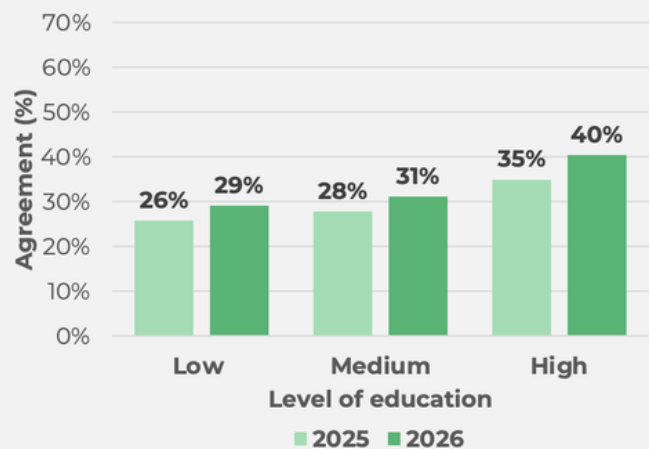
**Those with medium levels of education are moving in step with the broader trend.** They sit between the low and high groups, both in overall agreement and in the change since last year. Over three in ten now want their taxes to go towards global problems and feel a global citizen, up from under three in ten. Support for international institutions has risen from around five in ten to almost six in ten.

**Highly educated respondents remain the most internationalist on every measure, and they too are moving.** Four in ten now support tax contributions to global problems and feel a global citizen, and over six in ten back institutional enforcement powers. These are notable increases from 2025.

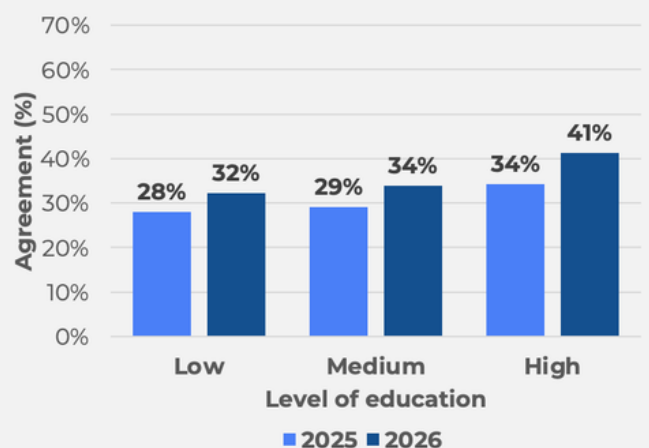
The gap between educational groups has not closed, but it has narrowed. People do not need a university degree to recognise that when international cooperation fails, they bear the cost. As that failure becomes visible in daily life, the desire for global action is growing across the educational spectrum.

**Figure 5: Public support for global solidarity by level of education 2025 vs 2026**

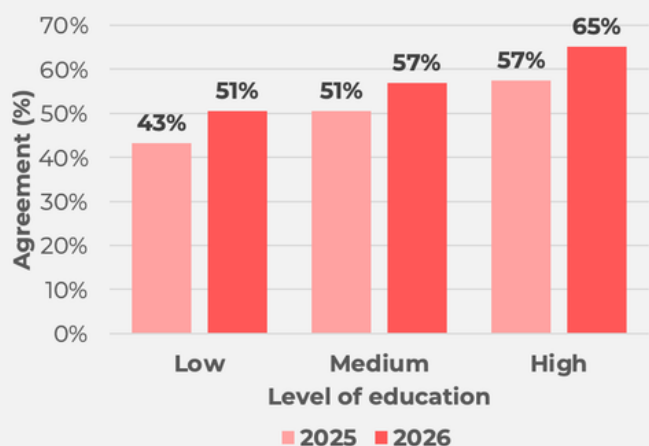
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# **Analysis: Why public support for internationalism is rebounding**

The apparent contradiction between multilateralism in crisis and the rebounding of public support for it is being driven by a series of destabilising, US-led actions that have disrupted the international order and exposed risks that no country can manage alone. What appeared to be a shift in the Overton window away from internationalism may already be in reverse.

## **Conflict and economic pressure are making global interdependence tangible.**

Trade Wars and the US-Iran conflict are bringing geopolitical instability directly into people's daily lives, particularly through cost-of-living pressures. Issues like international law violations and the state of the global economy may once have felt abstract, but when consequences are felt in everyday life, they become immediate and personal. The data suggests that this is reinforcing public awareness that external shocks require international cooperation and collective resilience.

## **Rule breaking is promoting the value of international institutions.**

The risks of depending on a single dominant power are not a new lesson for much of the world. Countries across Africa, Latin America and Asia have long navigated great power competition, economic coercion and security threats without the cushion of a rules-based order built around their interests. What has changed is that instability moved to the centre of the international system, which is now in a state of total rupture. As that instability spreads, public opinion across regions is converging: more people, in more places, recognise the need for institutions capable of curbing harm from powerful actors.

## **Nativist populism is struggling to create a convincing narrative for this moment.**

Viktor Orbán was the central figure of a global far-right movement, providing it with strategic leadership and what was seen as a blueprint for success. His defeat to a strongly pro-EU rival in April 2026 was far bigger than a national political moment. Now, parties built on the same nativist populist agenda are starting to look vulnerable after enjoying strong ascendancy. The RN in France, the AfD in Germany, and Reform UK have struggled to respond coherently to an American administration that is ideologically aligned yet driving a geopolitical agenda that is worsening their public's top concern: the cost of living. There are parallels to be drawn with Brexit, where the impact on the UK of leaving the European Union deterred voters in other EU countries from pursuing a similar path.<sup>9</sup> The lack of a convincing narrative from the far right for this moment is highlighting the weaknesses in their ideologies.

Governments and mainstream parties have spent years being dragged toward far-right narratives. To continue to do so risks being behind the curve, rather than ahead of it. The public mood is moving and the question is whether internationalists can seize the opportunity.

## About the polling

The data in this briefing is from the results of a 31-country survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform between Friday, February 20, and Friday, March 6, 2026, and in China between Friday, March 20 and Friday, April 3, 2026. The survey was conducted by Ipsos, but the analysis, interpretation, and views expressed in this report are those of Global Nation and do not represent the views of Ipsos.

For this survey, Ipsos interviewed a total of 22,029 adults aged 18-74 in Canada, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, South Africa, Türkiye, and the United States, 20-74 in Thailand, 21-74 in Indonesia and Singapore, and 16-74 in all other countries.

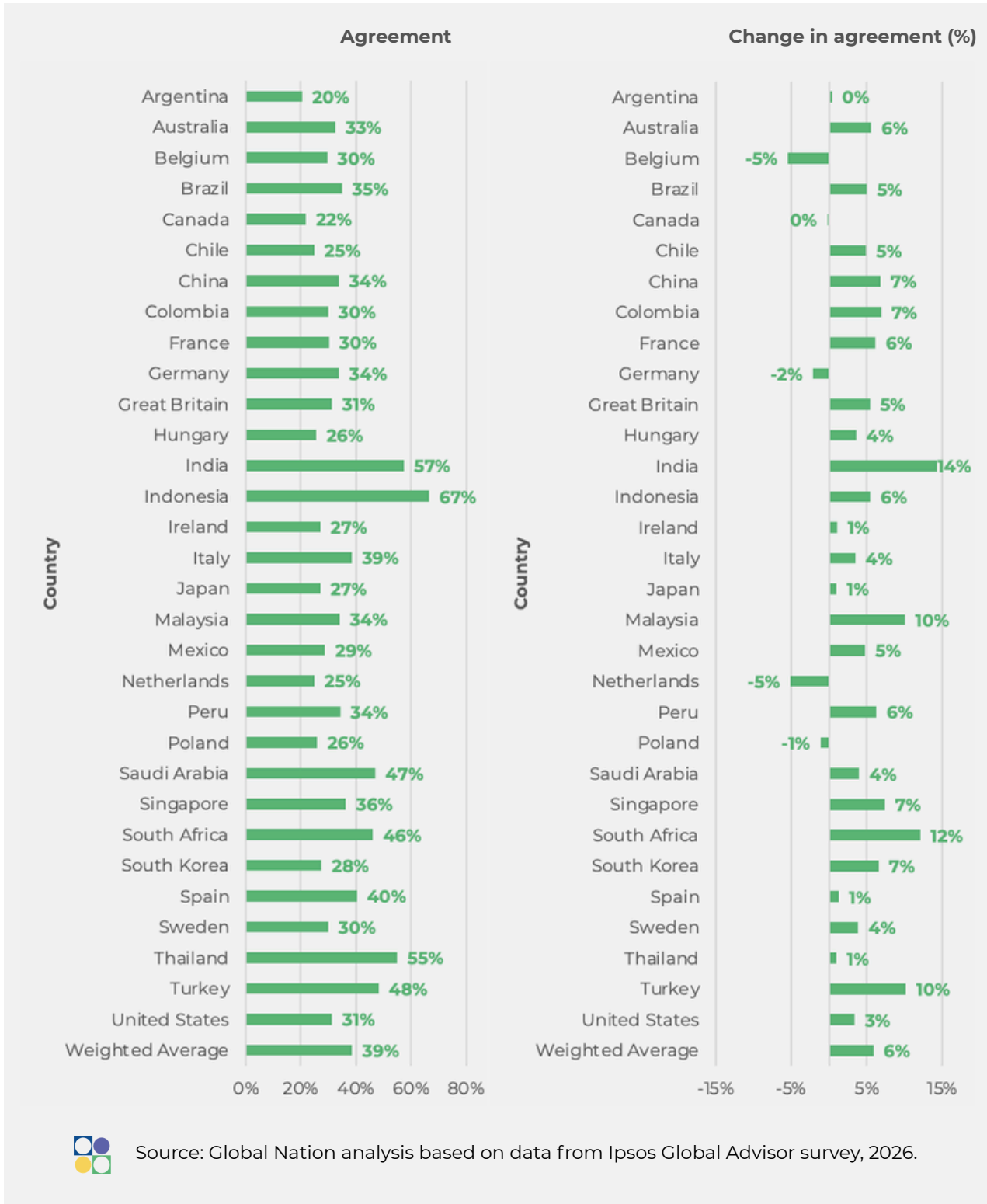
The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals each in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the U.S., and 500 individuals each in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand, and Türkiye. Samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the US can be considered representative of their general adult populations under the age of 75. Samples in Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Türkiye are more urban and should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of their population. The data is weighted by Ipsos so that the composition of each country’s sample best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

Global Nation adds a further weight to reflect the fact that a high proportion of the countries surveyed are high-income, but with on average much smaller populations than some of the middle-income countries, particularly India and China. To address this, without putting overdue weight on the results from India and China, we reduce the weight of high-income country scores to reflect their smaller average populations compared to the middle-income countries in the sample. This means that each high-income country contributes 1.1% to the global score, while each middle-income country contributes 6% to the global score. Unfortunately, due to the prohibitive cost, we are unable to survey low-income countries.

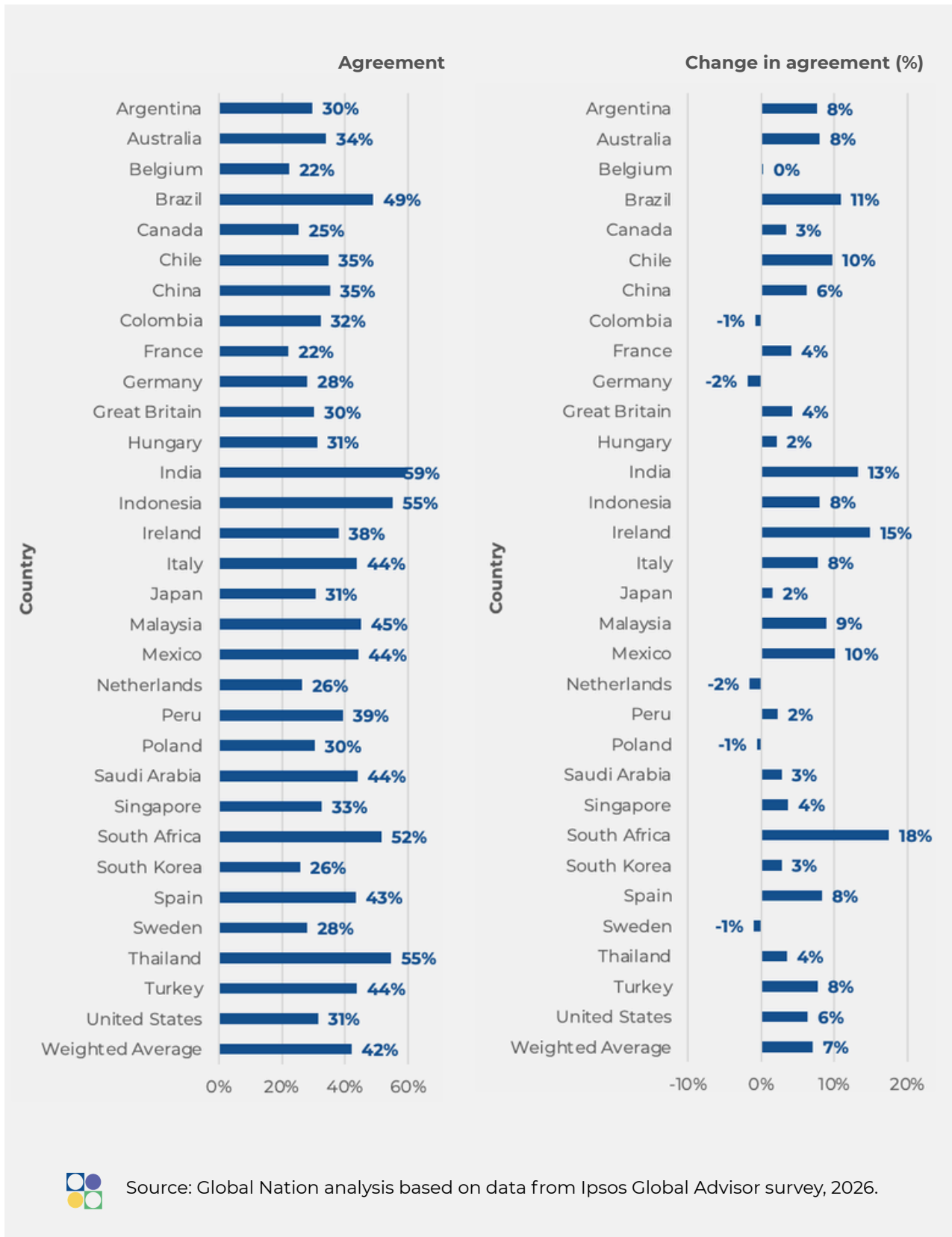
Global Nation can provide access to the raw data under a creative commons attribution license. For data requests please contact [Anna.Hope@globalnation.world](mailto:Anna.Hope@globalnation.world).

# Annex I: Agreement by country, per statement, 2025 vs 2026

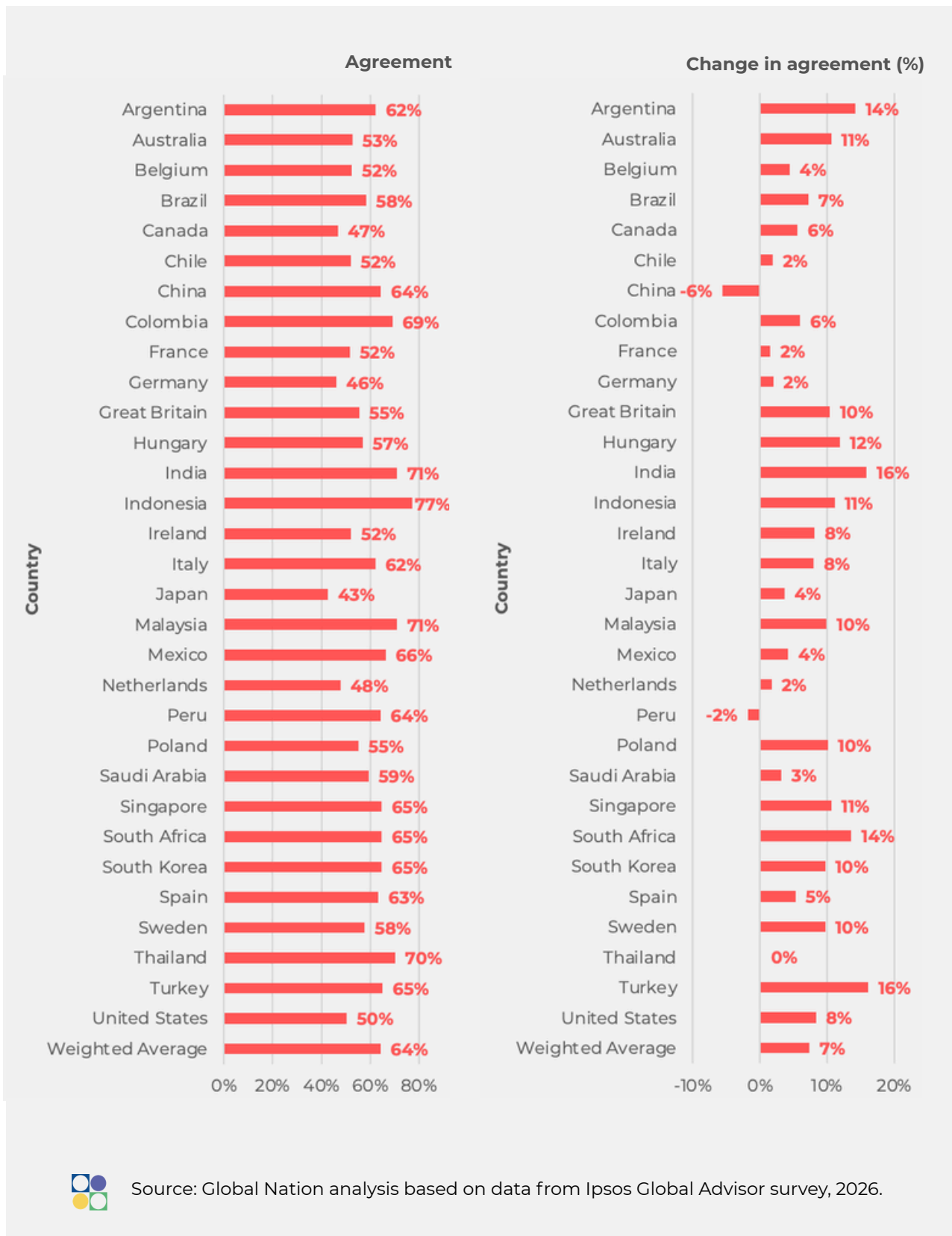
Public support for the statement: “I consider myself more a world citizen than a citizen of the country I live in”



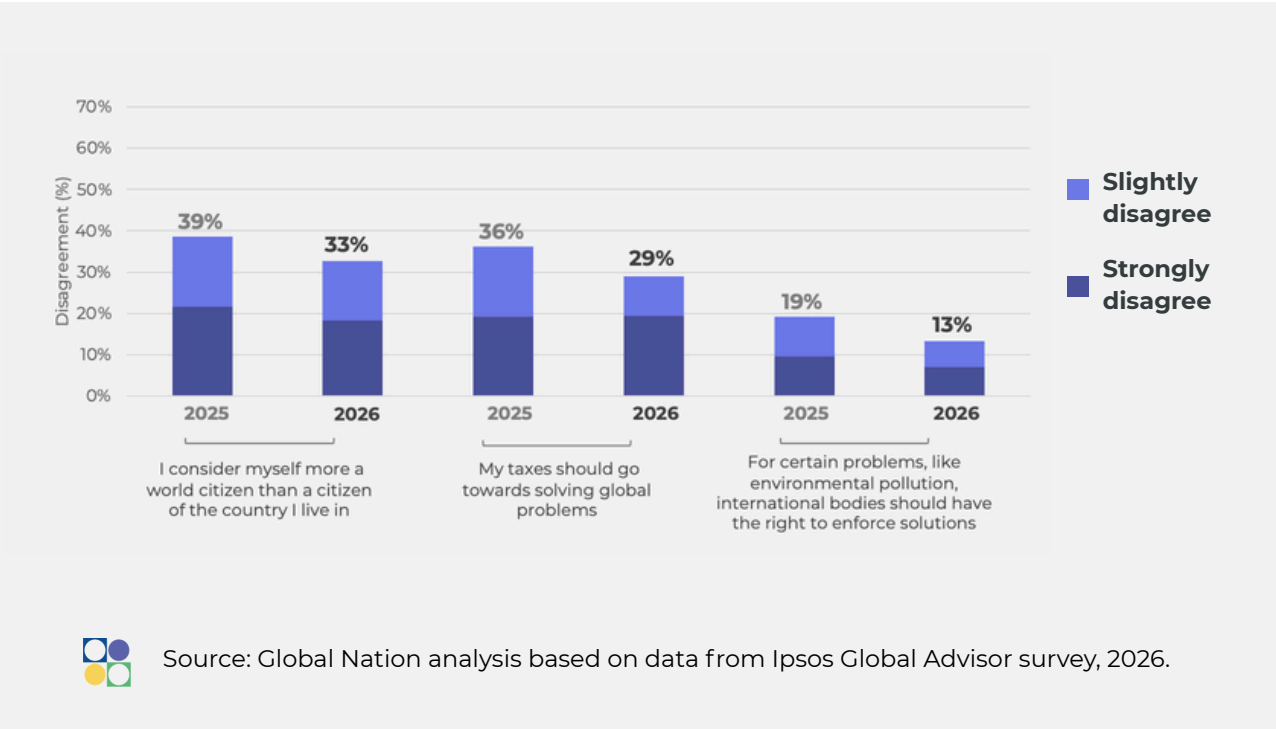
Public support for the statement: “My taxes should go towards solving global problems”.



Public support for the statement: “For certain problems, like environmental pollution, international bodies should have the right to enforce solutions”



# Annex II: Strong and slight disagreement with the global solidarity statements, 2025 vs 2026



## Endnotes

1. For example see: Trithart, A. and Romier, F. (2025) 'Is public trust in the UN falling? A look at global survey data'. Available at: <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2025/05/is-public-trust-in-the-un-falling-a-look-at-global-survey-data/> and Rondeaux, C. (2024) 'Foreign policy fault lines in the 2024 election'. Available at: <https://www.newamerica.org/insights/foreign-policy-fault-lines-in-the-2024-election/>
2. Damluji, H. and Hope, A. (2025), Global Nation, 'Global Solidarity Report 2025'. Available at: <https://globalnation.world/global-solidarity-report/>
3. Ibid.
4. Gallup (2026) 'Economic anxiety is a global problem'. Available at: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/701438/economic-anxiety-global-problem.aspx>
5. See annex II for data on disagreement.
6. Germany, the Netherlands and Poland are the only countries to see a drop in agreement with two of the three statements.
7. Belgium, Canada and China are the only countries to see a drop in agreement with one of the three statements.
8. Bearce, D.H., McLeer, A. and Stallman, K. (2023) 'Globalization and social identities at the individual level: populism from shifting at the top?', *Global Studies Quarterly*, 3(3), ksad038. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksad038>
9. Malet, G. and Walter, S. (2023) 'How British Brexit politics reshaped Europeans' views of the EU. *UK in a Changing Europe*, 7 December. Available at: <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/how-british-brexite-politics-reshaped-europeans-views-of-the-eu/>



Towards a more  
collaborative world