



Views of Climate Change

AFRICA BACKGROUNDER

Kenya

Kenyans are in favor of taking action to address climate change and believe developing countries should impose limits on their emissions. A majority says they are not informed about the issue, however. Seventy-two percent of Kenyans agree that human activity is a significant cause of climate change. A majority (53%) favors taking major steps in the near future to address climate change, while 31 percent believe only modest steps are necessary and 12 percent no action is necessary. Sixty-four percent of Kenyans believe less wealthy countries should be expected to limit their “substantial and growing emissions” along with wealthy countries. Only 31 percent take the position that they should not be required to do so because their per capita emissions are relatively low. More than three-quarters (76%) of Kenyans would favor an agreement requiring less wealthy countries to limit emissions if wealthy countries agree to provide financial assistance and technology. Asked how much they have heard or read about the issue of global warming, a modest majority (53%) says they have not heard much (31%) or anything at all (22%), while 44 percent say they have heard some (29%) or a great deal (15%).

Nigeria

Nigerians share the view that human activity is a significant cause of climate change and favor taking major steps to combat the problem. But half of those polled say that developing countries should not be expected to limit their emissions. A significant majority (72%) of Nigerians agree that “human activity, including transportation and industry, [is] a significant cause of climate change.” More than three in four (77%) believe it is necessary to take either major steps in the immediate future (50%) or modest steps in the coming years (27%) to address the problem. Just 16 percent say that no steps are necessary. Asked whether developing countries should be required to limit their emissions because they are “substantial and growing” or whether they should not have to because they produce “relatively low emissions per person,” Nigerians favor the latter position by 50 percent to 42 percent. Nigerians look somewhat favorably on a deal that would require wealthy countries to provide financial assistance and technology to less wealthy countries that agree to limit emissions: 50 percent would support this arrangement, 46 percent would not. Nigerians are less aware of the issue than most other publics. Half say they have heard a great deal (20%) or some (30%) about the issue, while 48 percent say they have heard only a little (38%) or nothing at all (10%).

For more information on this poll, please see the Questionnaire/Methodology:
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/sep07/BCCClimate_Sep07_quaire.pdf