



Views of Climate Change

LATIN AMERICA BACKGROUNDER

Brazil

Brazilians agree that humans help cause climate change and support major steps to address the problem. They also believe that both wealthy and less wealthy countries should be expected to limit their emissions. Nine in 10 (88%) say that “human activity is a significant cause of climate change.” A very large majority (76%) says the problem requires “major steps starting very soon.” Only 16 percent prefer “modest steps over the coming years” and just 4 percent say no steps are necessary. A majority of Brazilians (63%) agree that less wealthy countries should be expected to limit their emissions of greenhouse gases along with wealthy countries. Seventy-three percent would support a deal whereby wealthy countries provide financial assistance and technology to less wealthy countries that agree to set emissions limits. Most Brazilians are aware of the issue: 78 percent say they have heard or read about climate change or global warming.

Chile

The Chilean public endorses the view that human activity contributes to climate change, favors taking major steps to deal with the problem, and believes both developed and developing countries should limit their emissions of greenhouse gases. A very large majority of Chileans (85%) agrees that “human activity, including industry and transportation [is] a significant cause of climate change.” Nearly four out of five (78%) support taking “major steps starting very soon.” Only 16 percent favor instead more modest, gradual measures. A substantial majority (63%) agrees with the argument that “because total emissions from less wealthy countries are substantial and growing, these countries should limit their emissions of climate changing gases along with wealthy countries.” Only 19 percent disagree, saying instead that because less wealthy countries “produce relatively low emissions per person, they should not be expected” to impose caps. More than two out of three (68%) favor a deal that would require less wealthy countries to limit emissions in return for financial assistance and technology. A majority of Chileans (62%) say they have heard or read about global warming.

Mexico

Among the 21 countries polled, Mexico has the largest majority believing that humans contribute to climate change. Most support immediate action to address the problem and believe both developed and developing countries should limit emissions. An overwhelming majority (94%) of Mexicans say that “human activity, including industry and transportation [is] a significant cause of climate change.” More than four out of five (83%) support taking “major steps starting very soon” to deal with global warming and

three out of four (75%) believe that because emissions from less wealthy countries are “substantial and growing,” they should be required to impose caps along with wealthy nations. A smaller majority (57%) supports a deal requiring wealthy countries to give financial assistance and technology to less wealthy countries that agree to limit the output of greenhouse gases. Most Mexicans (73%) say they have heard or read about climate change.

For more information on this poll, please see the Questionnaire/Methodology:
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/sep07/BBCClimate_Sep07_quaire.pdf