



Views of Climate Change

MIDDLE EAST BACKGROUNDER

Egypt

A majority of Egyptians believe human activity is a cause of climate change and feel that at least some steps are necessary to combat the problem. However, a majority believes developing countries should not be expected to limit their emissions. Two-thirds (66%) of Egyptians agree that human activity is a significant cause of climate change, but this majority is smaller than in most other countries and a relatively large 33 percent say that human activity is not a significant cause. Egyptians are divided about what should be done to address the problem: 43 percent say major steps should be taken very soon and 43 percent prefer modest steps over the coming years. A relatively large 14 percent believe no steps are necessary. A modest majority (53%) of Egyptians favor the argument that because less wealthy countries “produce relatively low emissions per person,” they should not be expected to limit emissions. Forty-seven percent take the opposite view that less wealthy countries should be expected to limit their “substantial and growing” emissions. However, more than three-quarters (77%) would support a deal whereby developing countries limit emissions in return for financial assistance and technology. A majority of Egyptians are aware of the issue, with 58 percent saying they have heard a great deal (17%) or some (41%) about it. But large numbers are not: 41 percent say they have not heard much (25%) or anything at all (16%).

Turkey

The Turkish public shares the view that human activity contributes to climate change and that major steps should be taken to address the issue. They also tend to believe that less wealthy countries should be expected to limit their emissions. Seven in 10 (70%) agree that “human activity, including industry and transportation” is a significant cause of climate change. A majority (59%) is in favor of taking “major steps starting very soon” to reduce the effects of climate change. Less than one-fifth (19%) prefer more modest, gradual action and only a tenth (11%) say no action is needed or decline to answer. Given two arguments—that less wealthy countries should limit emissions because they are “substantial and growing” or that they should not have to do so because their per capita emissions are low—Turks choose emission limits by a margin of 41 percent to 23 percent. Large numbers, however, do not take either position (36%). A significant majority (65%) would favor emissions caps in return for financial assistance and technology. Turks show substantial awareness of climate change: 72 percent say they have heard some (50%) or a great deal (22%) about the issues.

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