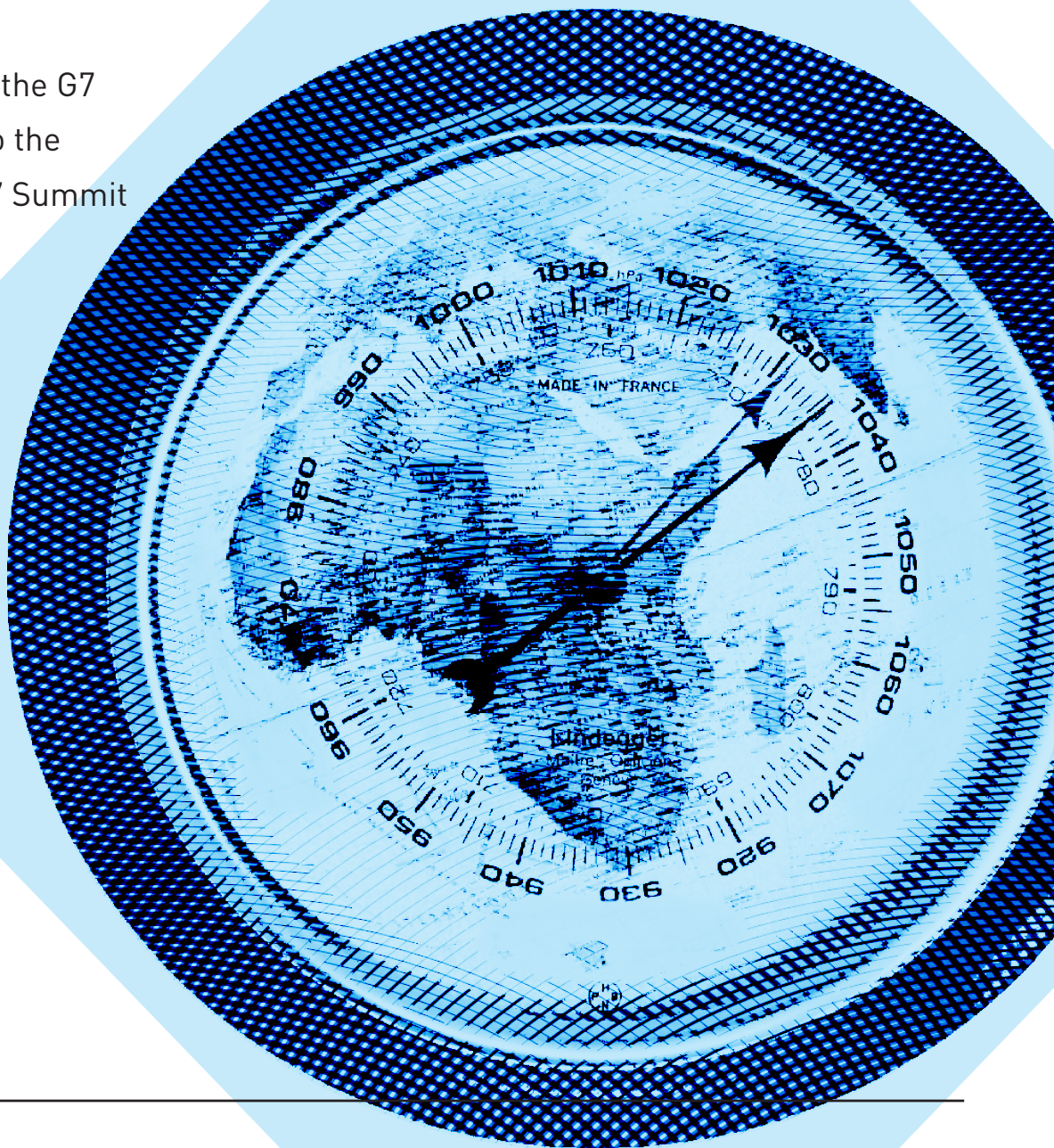


INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BAROMETER N°5

French views on the G7 and global inequality

Opinions and
perceptions on the G7
in the run-up to the
August 2019 G7 Summit
in Biarritz.

JULY 2019



INTRODUCTION

Formed of some of the world's seven richest countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US) the G7 represents 45% of global GDP (39 billion USD), 56% of global arms exports, and a quarter of the world's greenhouse gases.

And yet G7 countries represent only 10% of the world's population.

This year, and almost as a mirror of this disparity, France has decided to focus its G7 Presidency on global inequality. Particularly gender inequality, including France's decision to adopt a 'feminist diplomacy' (an idea supported by 64% of French people).

In the run-up to the G7 summit this year, this edition of our International Development Barometer examines what French people know about the G7, in the aim of trying to better understand their views on which should be France's priorities this year as G7 host.

We find for example that 65% of French people think the G7 should tackle global inequality, in accordance with what President Macron has set as the French G7 Presidency priority in 2019. And yet we also see that French people have their doubts about their politicians' ability - or willingness - to take action on this subject.

French people clearly identify climate change and taxation of multinational corporations alongside the fight against terrorism and mass killings. There is also a high percentage of French people who say they are prepared to vote for someone who appears to be motivated on global inequality, or instead to withdraw their vote from a candidate who did not appear to take these questions seriously, or to have the ability to tackle them.

The French G7 is now underway. Only time will tell whether the combination of politicians' promises and civil society advocacy in 2019 will lead to practical results on global inequality, and provide concrete answers to the global challenges as identified by French citizens in this Barometer.

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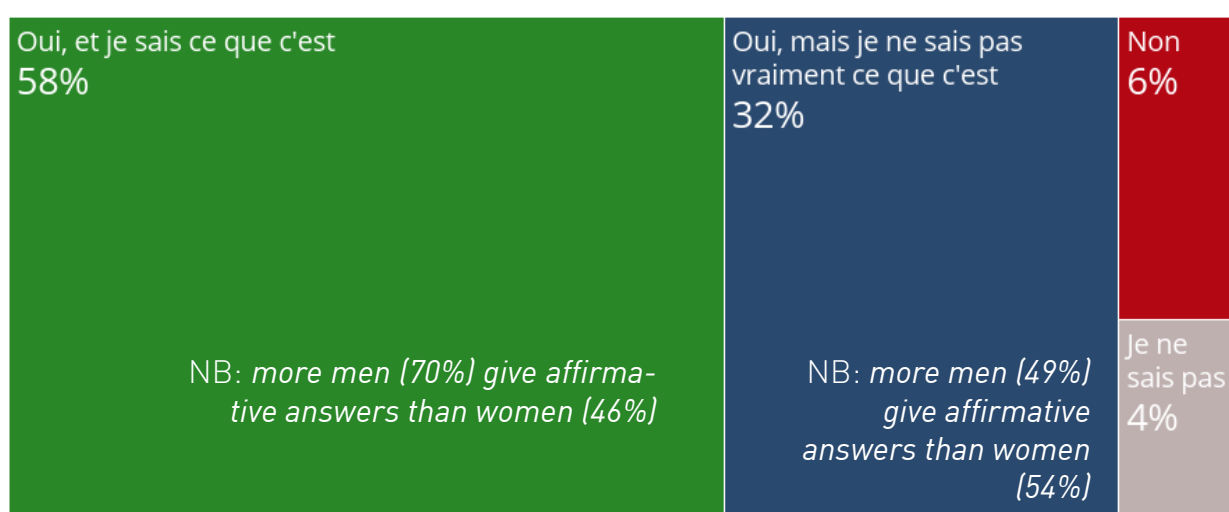
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WHAT DO FRENCH PEOPLE (SAY THEY) KNOW ABOUT THE G7?

1. WHAT DO FRENCH PEOPLE (SAY THEY) KNOW ABOUT THE G7?

QUESTION ASKED:

'HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE G7?'



SUMMARY

58% of French people say they know what the G7 is, compared to 32% who have heard of it, but 'don't really know what it is'.

These results do not however show whether French people really know what the G7 discusses, its scope for action, the type of decisions which it takes, or which countries are member states.

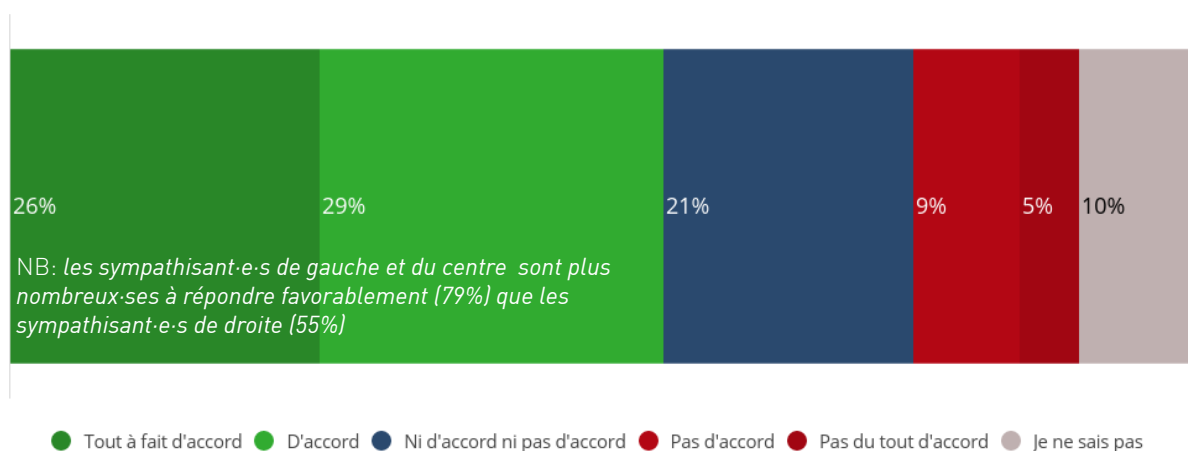
The older the respondent, the more likely they are to say they know what the G7 is.

The same is true of those with at least university-entrance level qualifications (+24%) others who claim to have a good understanding of what the G7 is.

**THE FIGHT AGAINST
GLOBAL INEQUALITY: A
G7 PRIORITY FOR 65% OF
FRENCH PEOPLE**

QUESTION ASKED:

'THE G7 WILL BRING TOGETHER THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF SEVEN OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST COUNTRIES. FRANCE HAS MADE THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL POVERTY A PRIORITY FOR THE G7 THIS YEAR. HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THIS DECISION?'

**SUMMARY**

65% of French people approve of the idea that France uses its G7 Presidency this year to fight against global poverty. Only 8% disagree.

In general, there is overall support from French people about making global inequality a priority. Chosen as a theme well before the 'Yellow Jackets' movement, which drew widespread sympathy from the general public in France on domestic inequality, it was almost as if the government anticipated a general interest and support for this theme for the G7 Presidency that would follow.

Digging deeper into this consensus (64%), however, it is worth remembering that respondents' positive response to inequality are in reaction to the context of a fairly vague proposal (improve inequality in the world) carried out by an international entity (the G7), with limited direct or immediate impact on the respondent or nationally in France.

This percentage does not, therefore, represent a strong individual engagement from French people on the issue in itself. However, what is clear - and interesting - is the very low percentage of those who opposed inequality as a priority for the G7 (8%) and fairly low percentage of those who neither approved nor disapproved (21%).

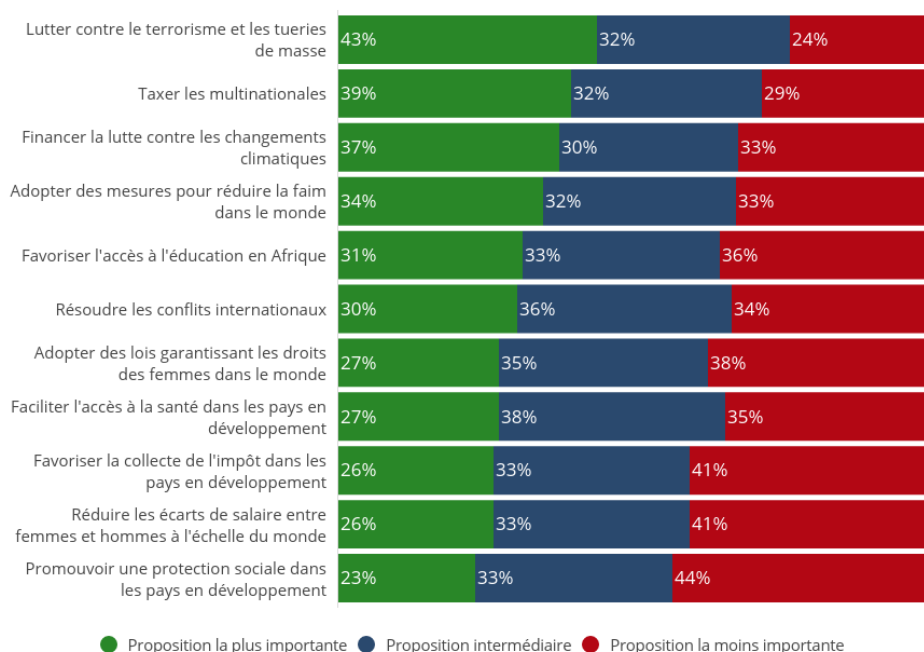
FRENCH PRIORITIES FOR THE G7 INTERNATIONALLY: MIRRORING WHAT MATTERS MOST AT HOME?

3. FRENCH PRIORITIES FOR THE G7 INTERNATIONALLY: MIRRORING WHAT MATTERS MOST AT HOME?

QUESTION ASKED:

'FOR ITS G7 PRESIDENCY, FRANCE HAS PROPOSED A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AMONG LEADERS OF THE SEVEN RICHEST COUNTRIES. WHICH DO YOU THINK ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST?*

*by selecting the most important subject first, then the second most important, and then the third.



SUMMARY

Although the G7 is an international group, dealing with problems on a global scale, the priority questions which French people would like the G7 to tackle unsurprisingly mirror those which dominate discussion, or those whose impact is most greatly felt, on a national level in France. This is the case notably for the fight against terrorism, seen as an everyday security priority by 43% of French people, undoubtedly following the relatively recent terrorist attacks which have shaken France in recent years. It is also the case for state finances through greater taxation of multinational corporations (39%) as well as a high level of concern for the environment (37%).

Compared with these concerns, the more classic subjects related to development and international solidarity receive less attention, such as global hunger (34%), access to education in Africa (31%), women's rights globally (27%), social protection in developing countries (23%), health in developing countries (27%), or reducing the gender pay gap (26%).

3. FRENCH PRIORITIES FOR THE G7 INTERNATIONALLY: MIRRORING WHAT MATTERS MOST AT HOME?

THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL PREFERENCE, AGE AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION ON TAXING MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



The importance given to taxation of multinational corporations might seem surprising, but it illustrates the interest in this issue domestically following demands from several French NGOs as well as the 'GAFA' tax suggested by the French Finance and Economy Minister for the G7 discussions.

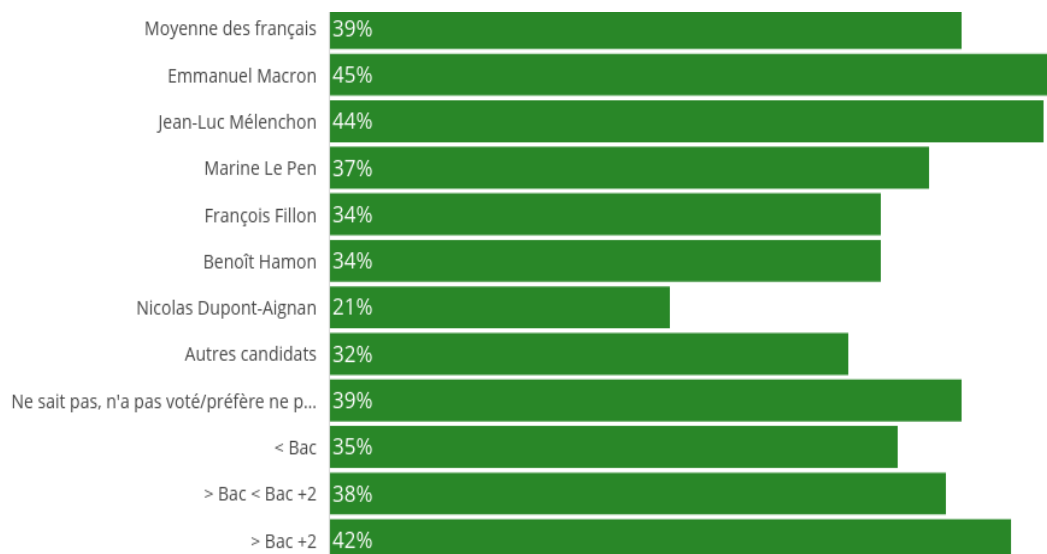
When it comes to ranking the different subjects which France should put on the agenda for the G7 in Biarritz in August 2019, those who voted for Emmanuel Macron and those who voted for Jean-Luc Mélenchon (far-left candidate) in the first round of the 2017 presidential election are those who are by the most in favor of taxing the multinational corporations (45%). They are followed by voters for Benoît Hamon (mainstream left) and for François Fillon (mainstream right) with an identical rate of 34%, very similar to views of far-right candidate Marine Le Pen (37%).

We note also that support for greater taxation of multinationals can be positively correlated with respondents' level of education, and age.



More tax for multinational corporations?

Answers broken down by political preference and level of education



3. FRENCH PRIORITIES FOR THE G7 INTERNATIONALLY: MIRRORING WHAT MATTERS MOST AT HOME?



The third priority revealed by the survey is financing the fight against climate change.

This is a subject which tends to find less favour with older people, but increasing support as the level of income of respondents goes up.

Perhaps surprisingly, more center-voters think that this is a priority than left-wing voters (44% compared to 40%).

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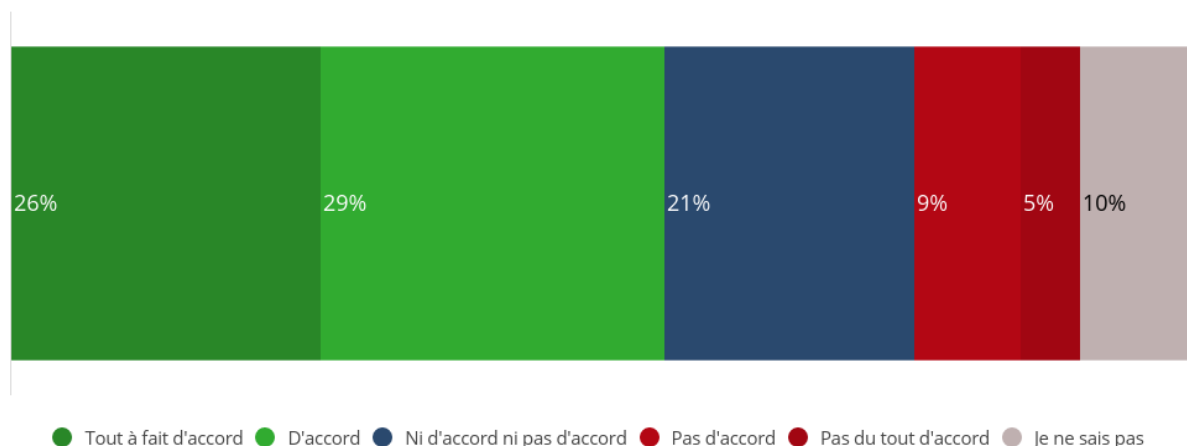
Financing the fight against climate change

Answers broken down by age, political preference and level of education

MAKING FINANCIAL MARKETS PAY (MORE) TAX: SOMETHING WE CAN ALL AGREE ON?

4. MAKING FINANCIAL MARKETS PAY (MORE) TAX: SOMETHING WE CAN ALL AGREE ON?

QUESTION ASKED:

'TO FINANCE AID TO POOR COUNTRIES, FINANCIAL MARKETS SHOULD PAY MORE TAX.'

SUMMARY

55% of French people think higher taxes on financial markets would fund aid to developing countries.

This question does not however delve into respondents' understanding of development aid, nor what is meant by 'financial markets'. This said, it still appears highly relevant (or fair) to a majority of people to tax financial market transactions to contribute to aid to developing countries.

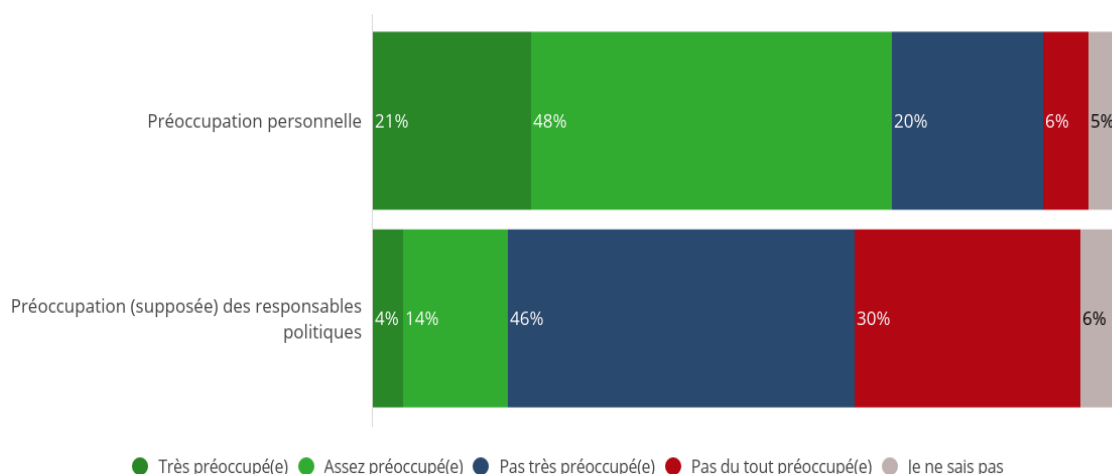
Only 14% of French people disagree with this idea, while 10% did not have a view.

It is likely that the level of support for this idea would be higher still if people realised that they would not be personally affected by such a tax, i.e. that their personal, professional, or family financial transactions (such as inheritance) would not be considered as falling into the category of financial market transactions.

If offered a short and clear explanation, then, it is possible that a strong coalition could be built of a majority of French people around the idea of innovative financing for development (already in place in France through its national tax on financial transactions) particularly from this generally accepted principle of greater taxation of the rich to support the poor.

Support for this idea rises with age, which can be explained by the fact that those under 25 are three times more likely than those over 50 not to know how to answer the question, and by extension, probably unaware of this particular type of financing mechanism, and its implications either at a personal, national or international level. This would also suggest the usefulness of an appropriate awareness-raising campaign based on accessible, engaging information.

WHO CARES ABOUT GLOBAL POVERTY? CITIZENS VS. POLITICIANS

QUESTION ASKED:
**'HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT GLOBAL INEQUALITY?' VS.
'HOW CONCERNED DO YOU THINK POLITICIANS ARE ABOUT
GLOBAL INEQUALITY?'**


SUMMARY

There appears to be a considerable gap between citizens' concern with global inequality and their perception of politicians' interest in the issue.

- ◆ 69% of French people say they are (fairly or very) concerned about global inequality.
 - Only 6% of French people do not feel at all concerned by global inequality.
- ◆ At the other end of the scale, 76% think that politicians are not concerned enough (or at all) by global inequality.
 - And according to the same respondents, only 18% of politicians are fairly or very concerned by this issue.
- ◆ We can therefore see a gap of 50% between the levels of concern from French people on global inequality, and their perception of sufficient concern or action by politicians to tackle it. Indeed, answers to this particular question demonstrate the extent to which French people think that politicians:
 - are detached from the reality and challenges faced by the poor,
 - are not 'really' concerned by inequality overall, and that their interests and priorities lay elsewhere,
 - have a very different starting-point than the general public on inequality: the results show a resigned acknowledgement that citizens and their politicians do not see the world in the same way.
- ◆ By extension, this difference in views calls into question the credibility of politicians' views for French people, and their handling of contemporary challenges on a global scale.

THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL PREFERENCE ON VIEWS ON INEQUALITY, BOTH PERSONALLY AND IN TERMS OF WHETHER POLITICIANS SHOULD BE CONCERNED



Both in terms of linear and proportional correlation, individual concern for inequality in the world increases with the tendency to vote for a left-wing candidate in the first round of the 2017 French presidential election, with more similar rates for those voting for future (center) president Emmanuel Macron and for respectively left- and far-left wing candidates Benoît Hamon and Jean Luc Mélenchon, than for those voting for the mainstream right-wing candidate, François Fillon.

This alignment of left- and center-voters on development and poverty issues is frequent, in opposition to opinions from right-wing voters.

The most skeptical about politicians' concern for global inequality were those who voted for respectively left- and far-left wing candidates Benoît Hamon (90%) and Jean Luc Mélenchon (86%).

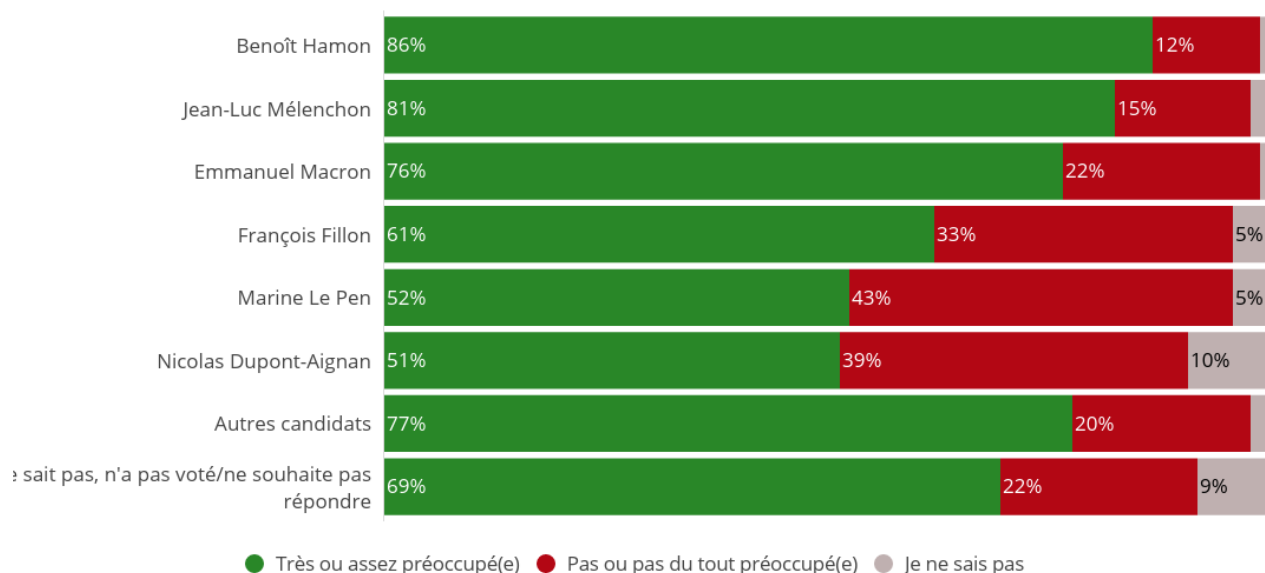
This is compared to those who voted for Emmanuel Macron, 24% of whom were more optimistic - if still a minority - in believing that politicians did, after all, care about global inequality.

5. WHO CARES ABOUT GLOBAL INEQUALITY? CITIZENS VS. POLITICIANS

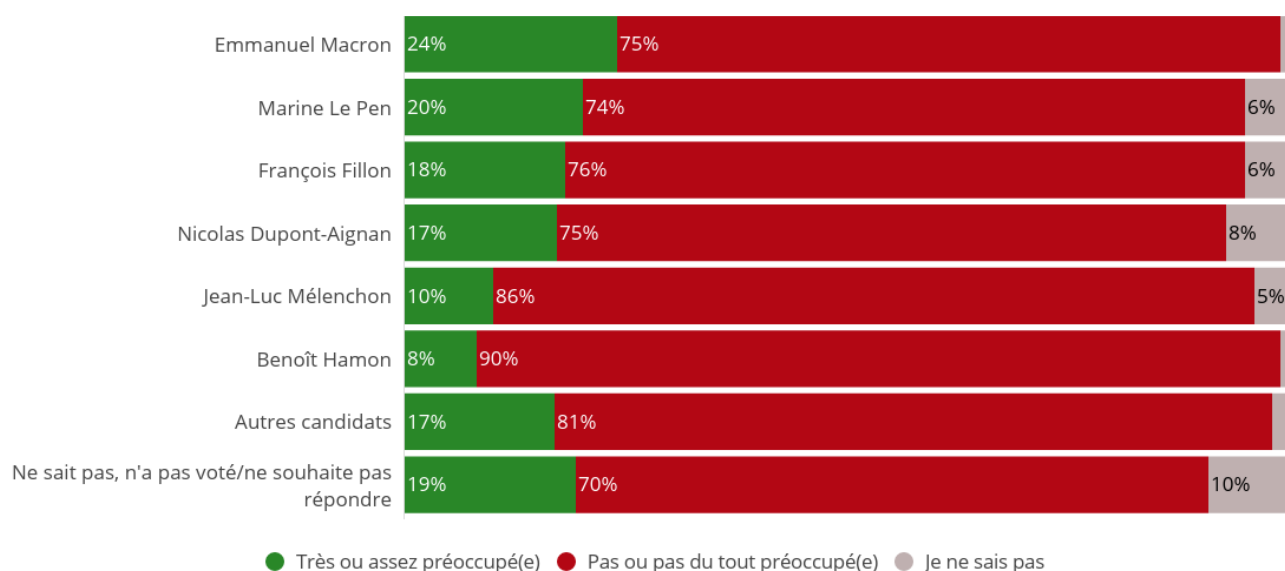


How concerned are you about global inequality?

Views broken down by respondents' voting in the 1st round of the 2017 French Presidential election



How concerned do you think politicians are about global inequality?



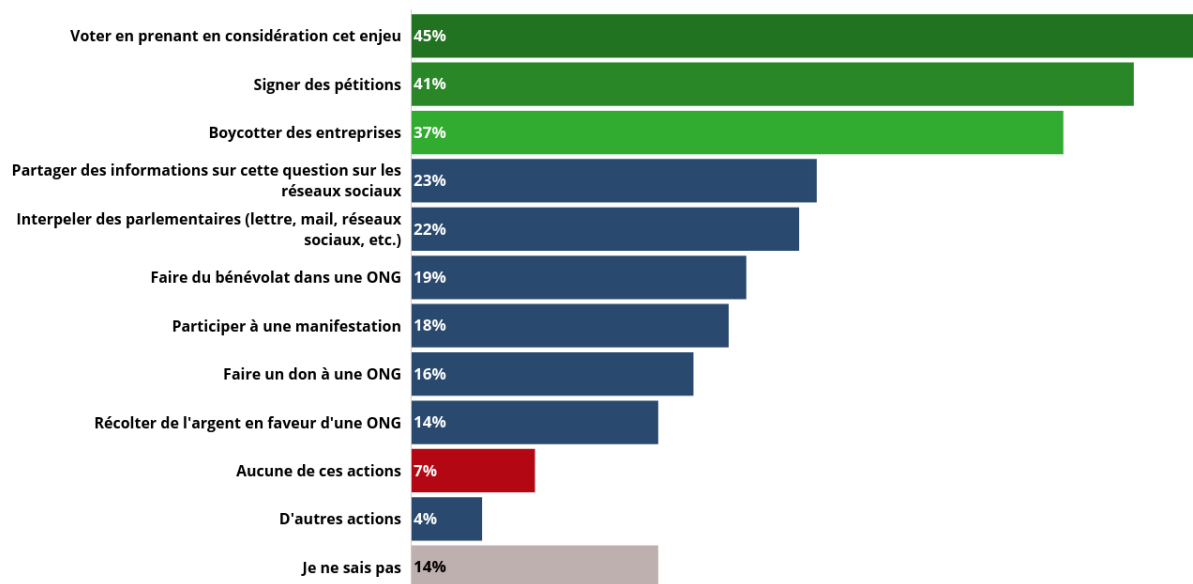
**ENDING HUNGER, AND
REDUCING GLOBAL
INEQUALITY AND POVERTY:
WHAT ARE FRENCH PEOPLE
WILLING TO DO TO GET
POLICY-MAKERS TO TAKE
ACTION?**

6. ENDING HUNGER, AND REDUCING GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND POVERTY: WHAT ARE FRENCH PEOPLE WILLING TO DO TO GET POLICY-MAKERS TO TAKE ACTION?

QUESTION ASKED:

'RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO END GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND POVERTY BY 2030 IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TOOK THE NECESSARY MEASURES. TO ENCOURAGE YOUR POLICY-MAKERS TO TAKE ACTION, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO...'*

*Please select as many answers as applicable to you



When asked about whether they want to help end hunger, inequality and poverty in the world, French people demonstrate a willingness which has a very real political and economic consequence in every day life.

For example, to encourage decision-makers to take action against these three problems, respondents seem highly motivated. I.e.:

- ◆ 45% of French people would be willing to change their vote for a candidate who took these questions into account,
- ◆ 41% say they are ready to take part in a public mobilisation (e.g. sign a petition),
- ◆ 37% claim to be ready to change their own behaviour as consumers (e.g. boycott a company).

Far from being indifferent to international solidarity and development issues, then, French people are in fact more than ready to show their

SUMMARY

6. ENDING HUNGER, AND REDUCING GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND POVERTY: WHAT ARE FRENCH PEOPLE WILLING TO DO TO GET POLICY-MAKERS TO TAKE ACTION?

support for the poorest through their political or economic decisions.

Faced with the major challenges stemming from global inequality, politicians, businesses and decision-makers must therefore realise that appearing to neglect these issues could have a real cost for their campaigns or activities.

However, individual forms of individual engagement appear less frequent for French people, with only 16% ready to give a donation, 19% willing to do volunteering, or 18% to join a protest.

It seems in fact as if French people believe that the key players in resolving these issues, both in terms of capacity and responsibility, are their economic or political decision-makers rather than they themselves at an individual level.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO ENCOURAGE THEIR POLITICIANS TO TAKE ACTION ON THESE ISSUES, ACCORDING TO RESPONDENTS' POLITICAL PREFERENCES



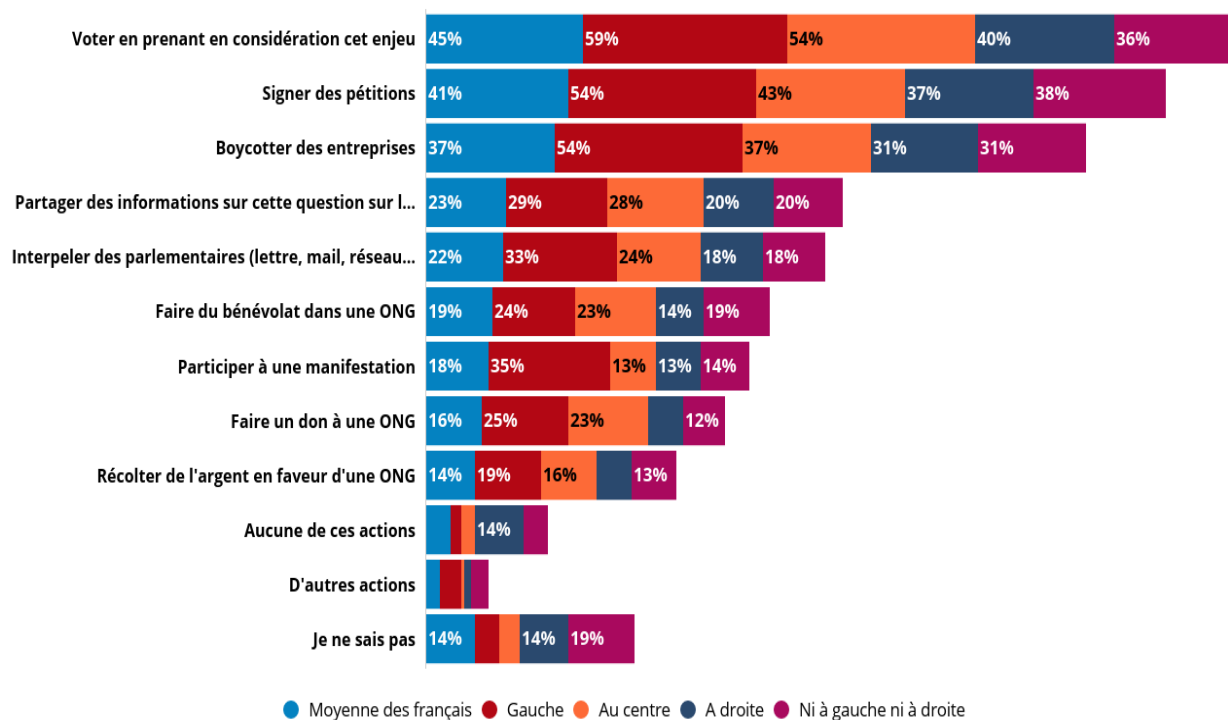
In general, left-wing voters are more likely than the average French person to be ready to get involved in order to encourage their politicians to do more on inequality, hunger and poverty in the world.

Left-wing and center voters also align over a willingness to vote according to these principles, as well as over a readiness to engage individually (e.g. making a donation, or volunteering).

Center-voters have a similar opinion to the average French person when it comes to using petitions or boycotts of a particular company, and give similar responses to right-wing voters when it comes to joining a protest or march.

6. ENDING HUNGER, AND REDUCING GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND POVERTY: WHAT ARE FRENCH PEOPLE WILLING TO DO TO GET POLICY-MAKERS TO TAKE ACTION?

Research has shown that it is possible to end global inequality and poverty by 2030 if the international community took the necessary measures. To encourage your policy-makers to take action, would you be willing to: (Please select as many answers as applicable to you)

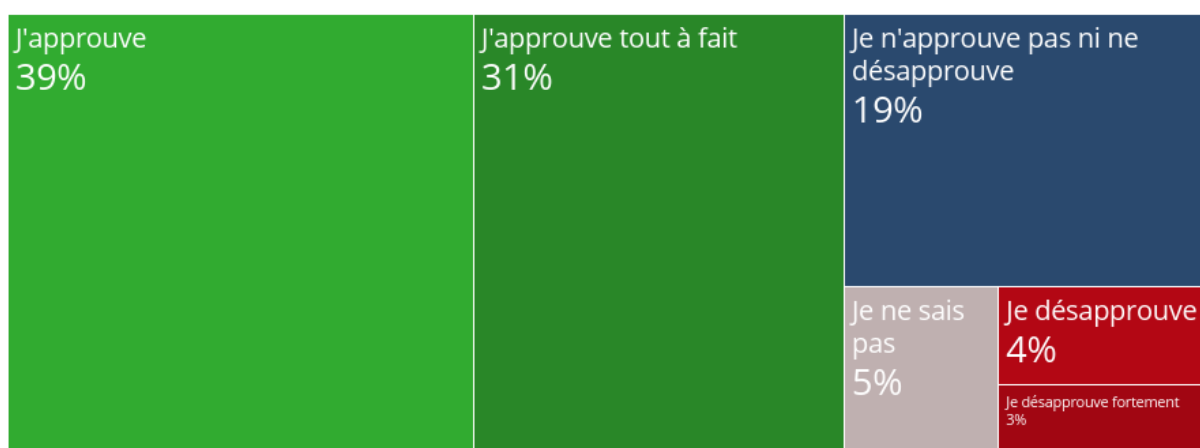


WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: WIDESPREAD AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

7. WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: WIDESPREAD AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

QUESTION ASKED:

'FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO CREATE A DEDICATED FUND FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN POOR COUNTRIES. HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL?'



SUMMARY

70% of French people agree with France's proposal to create a new fund aimed at supporting women's rights organisations in developing countries.

Only 7% are opposed to this idea, and only 5% do not have a view.

Even if this question is about something which would help people 'elsewhere' rather than those 'at home', these results demonstrate the extent to which French people are in sound agreement on women's rights.

7. WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: WIDESPREAD AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

A QUESTION OF GENDER, A GENDERED ANSWER: WOMEN ARE MORE SUPPORTIVE THAN MEN ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS



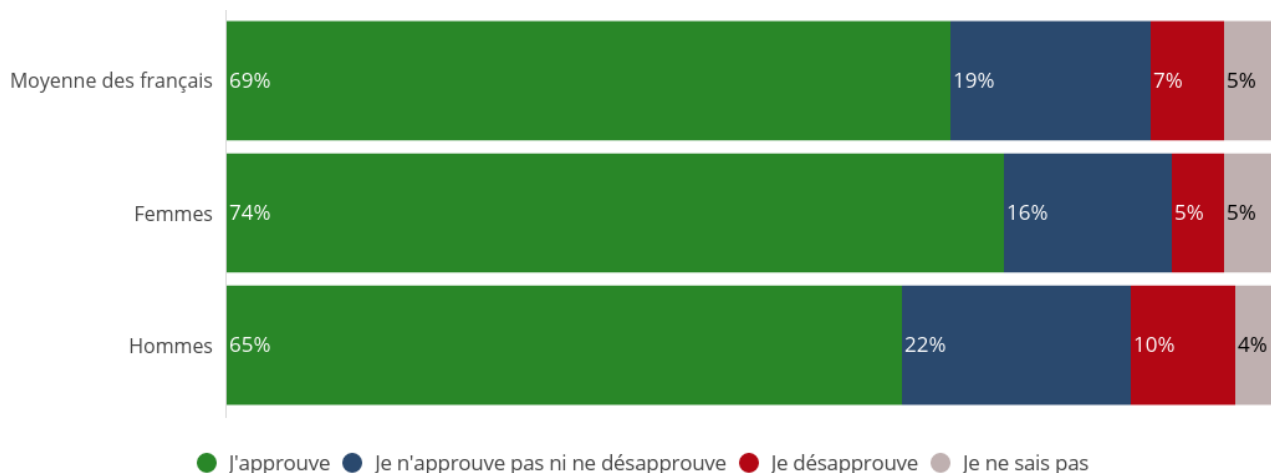
Age is not an influential factor in responses to this question, but gender is: unsurprisingly, more women (74%) than men (65%) supported the idea of creating a fund for women's rights in developing countries. In parallel, men were twice as likely (10%) as women (5%) to disagree with the idea, and also proportionally twice as likely (22%) as women (16%) to give a 'neither agree nor disagree' answer.

There is, then a 'gender solidarity' in French women's support for creation of a fund to support women's rights, almost as if for them, the question - and need - are considered from a universal perspective, beyond borders.



France has decided to create a dedicated fund to women's rights organisations in developing countries. How much do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Answers broken down according to gender



7. WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: WIDESPREAD AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN POOR COUNTRIES: LESS OF A TOP PRIORITY FOR RIGHT- AND FAR-RIGHT VOTERS COMPARED TO LEFT- OR CENTER VOTERS



Support for a new fund to support women's rights organisations in developing countries is much more prominent for left-wing voters (82% on average) than right-wing voters (60% on average).

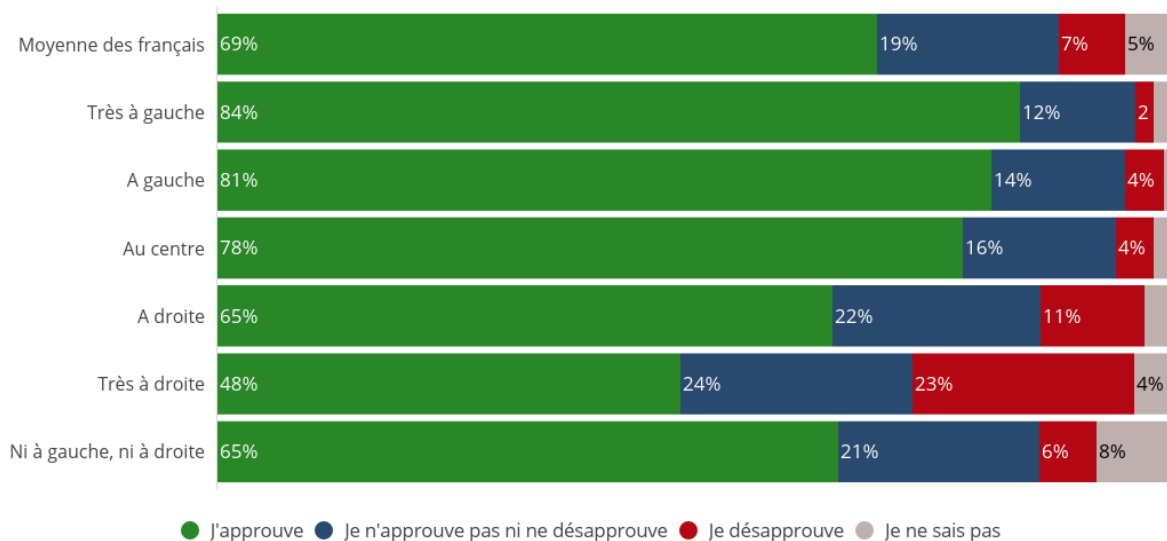
Center-voters (78%) align more closely with left-voters (82%) in agreeing with this proposal, compared to right-wing voters (60%), even though we should remember that regardless of political preference, the majority of French people do appear in favor of the creation of a fund for women's rights organisations in developing countries.

The only major breakaway is far-right voters, 48% of whom disapprove of the proposal. This is in part likely to be due to the idea of helping women in developing countries (rather than women at home in France).



France has decided to create a dedicated fund to women's rights organisations in developing countries. How much do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

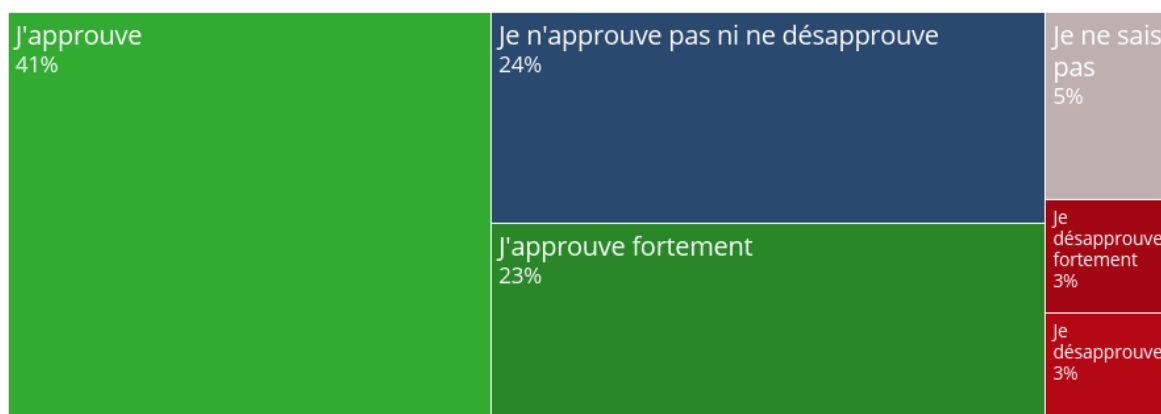
Answers broken down according to political preference



**FEMINIST DIPLOMACY:
A NEW CONCEPT APPROVED
BY 64% OF FRENCH PEOPLE**

QUESTION ASKED:

'FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO ADOPT A FEMINIST DIPLOMACY, TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS INTERNATIONALLY. HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THIS DECISION?'



SUMMARY

In the framework of its 2019 G7 Presidency, France has publicly committed to promoting a 'feminist diplomacy'.

Despite the potentially divisive nature of the word 'feminist', 64% of French people approve of this commitment (and 23% strongly approve) to use a new feminist diplomacy to promote women's rights internationally, compared to only 6% who reject the idea.

On closer inspection, this 'feminist diplomacy' wins more support from women (71%) than men (51%), 30% of whom also say they neither approve nor disapprove.

Young people under 25 are also more supportive (71%) of feminist diplomacy than older generations.

FEMINIST DIPLOMACY: A 'NEITHER LEFT NOR RIGHT' INITIATIVE, NEVERTHELESS (MORE) ROUNDLY APPLAUDED BY CENTER- AND LEFT-WING VOTERS



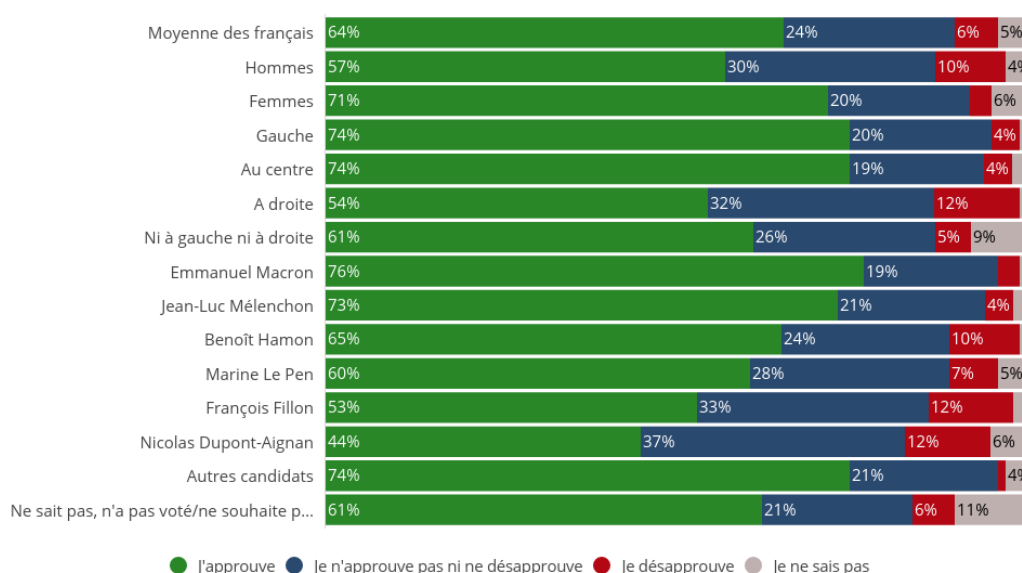
France's 2019 feminist diplomacy project receives the same high level of support from both left-wing and center voters (74%); 20 points more than for right-wing voters. Despite the clear political split in opinions with the right, however, it is clear that overall, the idea is broadly popular with a vast majority of French people.

Again on closer examination, those who voted for Emmanuel Macron in the first round of the Presidential elections in 2017 are bigger supporters of feminist diplomacy (76%) than voters for far-left candidate Jean Luc Mélenchon (73%) and Benoît Hamon (65%).

Interestingly, the far-right voters of Marine le Pen are not far behind (60%) of Benoît Hamon's voters, and actually bigger supporters of the idea of feminist diplomacy than those who voted for mainstream right-wing candidate François Fillon (53%).

France has decided to adopt a feminist diplomacy, to promote women's rights internationally. How much do you agree or disagree with this decision?

Answers broken down according to gender, political preference and vote at the 1st round of the French Presidential elections in 2017



The International Development Barometer: a Focus 2030 publication

The International Development Barometer is a Focus 2030 publication based on the findings of a series of opinion polls carried out under the 'Development Engagement Lab' research project (2018-2024) conducted by researchers at University College London and the University of Birmingham (UK).

The questions analysed in this Barometer were written by Focus 2030 following collective consultation alongside UCL and University of Birmingham researchers with 20 partner organisations from the French development sector (NGOs, think tanks, and institutions).

At a time of great political, technological, economic and ecological change on a global scale, this projet aims to better understand French understanding and perceptions of the world, particularly of modern-day global challenges and extent to which French citizens support (or not) action undertaken by those working on development to help the world's poorest populations.

Concentrating particularly on subjects which development actors and organisations have brought to the forefront in recent years (climate change, inequality, human rights, women's rights, access to healthcare or treatment), this project intends to analyse and explain the evolution of French people's opinions, behaviour, understanding or perceptions on these questions. By making our data and analysis freely available, Focus 2030 hopes to better break down and illuminate these fascinating links between the individual and their views on key development issues.

Focus 2030 takes full responsibility for the results and analysis presented in this Barometer, which does not represent in any way the positions or views of our partner organisations.

To use any of the data from this edition, or other other of Focus 2030's International Development Barometers, please contact:

Fabrice Ferrier, Director Focus 2030: fabrice@focus2030.org

Find out more about the Development Engagement Lab

The Development Engagement Lab (DEL, 2018-2024), is a research project based on opinion polls conducted online by YouGov in France, Germany, the UK and the US. It is a comparative study, financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and run by Jennifer van Heerde-Hudson (UCL) and David Hudson (University of Birmingham).

Find out more here: <https://devcommslab.org>



METHODOLOGY

The [Development Engagement Lab](#) (DEL, 2018-2024) opinion polls are carried out by [YouGov](#) in four countries: France, Germany, the UK and the US.

YouGov is a opinion polling institute established in 2000 in the UK, with 31 offices in 21 countries (including in France, since November 2011). YouGov has a panel of 5 million people across 28 countries, representing all ages, socio-economic categories and genders. This panel enables a representative sample of national populations for different opinion polls. In France, the panel has 175,000 people.

More information is available [here](#).

Survey methods used by the Development Engagement Lab (DEL)

YouGov carries out its opinion polls on line, using a system called 'active sampling'.

With this system, restrictions are introduced to ensure that only those people contacted are authorised to participate in the survey. This means that all of the respondents to the survey have been pre-selected by YouGov, from their panel of registered respondents, and only those chosen from the panel can participate.

Which respondents take part in DEL surveys?

The panel members are recruited from several different channels, such as classic advertising, or through various different websites. Various socio-demographic information is recorded for each new panel member.

Respondents have a log-in and password, and can only reply once to each online survey.

The analysis of the data

Once the survey is complete, the final data are weighted statistically against the national profile of adults aged over 18. The weighting is carried out for age, social class, region, level of education, political votes at recent elections, and political preference. 'Active sampling' therefore ensures an accurate and proportional representation in participation in the survey. Combined with statistical weighting, the sample provides representative findings for the whole of the population of the country under study (including those who do not have access to internet).

Reimbursement for participation

Respondents earn 'YouGov points' each time they take part in a survey. Depending on the size of the survey, taking part in between 10-15 polls will earn around 400 points. 5000 points equal a monetary value of around 56 € (£50). Participants must reach a minimum of 5000 points before being able to claim any kind of reimbursement.

Margin of error

The margin of error for DEL surveys (which involve between 2000 and 6000 respondents) is $\pm 2\%$.

For more information, see www.focus2030.org

Focus 2030

Focus 2030 is a registered non-profit organisation working with international solidarity and development actors on communication, mobilisation and advocacy projects supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our aim is to promote political, media and public attention for international development issues, the fight against poverty and global inequality, in order to ensure ambitious, transparent and effective public policies in these areas.

Focus 2030 structures its work around 3 main axes:

- DATA, in the production and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data through public opinion surveys on international development and publication of facts and figures on development;
- INNOVATION, in the support and financing of innovative research and campaigns on the Sustainable Development Goals and development finance, and;
- DEVELOPMENT, in bringing together our community of development actors (NGOs, think tanks, international organisations and public institutions) to facilitate exchange and co-construction of joint work.

Focus 2030 works principally in France and Spain.

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BAROMETER N°5 FOCUS 2030