



Mexico

CIDE/Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI)

Globalization and Trade

Mexicans tend to view globalization and international trade as positive for Mexico. Although Mexican officials have resisted including labor and environmental standards in trade agreements, large majorities of the Mexican public favor them.

- Asked about globalization, the most common view is that it is “mostly good” for Mexico (41%), but one in four (26%) volunteers that it is equally good and bad and one in five (22%) says “mostly bad.”
- Mexicans are more positive about international trade: majorities say it is good for creating jobs (74%), for Mexican companies (66%), for the Mexican economy (59%) and for Mexicans’ standard of living (53%).
- The Mexican public is divided about whether trade is good or bad for the environment; equal numbers say it is good (41%) and bad (41%).
- Mexicans agree overwhelmingly that trade agreements should require countries to maintain “minimum standards for the protection of the environment” (76%) and “minimum standards for working conditions” (67%).
- A majority (53%) believes that Mexico should generally comply with adverse World Trade Organization decisions.

Climate Change

Mexicans believe that climate change may endanger their country’s interests in the near future.

- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) say global warming could pose a threat to their country’s “vital interests” in the next 10 years. Of these 70%—the highest percentage among the 10 countries polled—say they consider it a “critical threat.” Only 7% say global warming is “not an important threat at all.”

Genocide and Darfur

Most Mexicans think the United Nations should be able to approve military action to prevent severe human rights violations, such as genocide.

- Nearly three in four (73%) say the UN Security Council should have the “right to authorize the use of military force to prevent severe human rights violations, such as genocide.”

Future of the United Nations

The Mexican public favors a stronger United Nations with the authority to use military force in a variety of circumstances. However, only a plurality is ready to accept UN decisions that go against their country's preferences.

- A large majority (82%) feels that “strengthening the United Nations” should be an important foreign policy goal and 56% say it should be very important.
- Large majorities believe the UN Security Council should have the right to authorize military force to “prevent human rights violations such as genocide” (73%), to “stop a country from supporting terrorist groups” (71%) and to “defend a country that has been attacked” (65%). A smaller majority (54%) thinks it should have the right “to restore by force a democratic government that has been overthrown.”
- Seven in 10 Mexicans (70%)—the highest percentage among 11 countries polled—say the Security Council should have the right to “prevent a country that does not have nuclear weapons from acquiring them.”
- On average, Mexicans say they feel very warmly toward the UN (80°).
- Only a plurality of Mexicans (46% to 27%) believe that their leaders should be more willing to make decisions within the United Nations, even if Mexico has to compromise on its preferred policy.

US Leadership

Though many polls have found that Mexicans have a negative view of US foreign policy Mexicans express strikingly warm feelings toward the United States per se. Few want the United States to withdraw from world affairs, favoring instead a cooperative role.

- Mexicans express warm feelings toward the United States, on average 74 degrees. This is warmer than their feelings toward Japan (68°), China (66°), Germany (64°) South Korea (63°), or India (51°).
- Very few (22%) want the US to “withdraw from most efforts to solve international problems.” Instead, 59% think the “US should do its share in efforts to solve international problems together with other countries.” Only (12%) want the US to continue as the world's preeminent leader.

Rise of China

Mexicans have mixed views about the prospect of China's economy growing to be as large as the US economy.

- 38% say it would be “mostly positive” if China caught up with the United States, while just 33% say it would be “mostly negative” and 16% think it would be equally positive and negative.
- Mexican feelings toward China register a somewhat warm 66 degrees on average.