

A world map in a light orange color with the Philippines highlighted in a darker shade. A dark teal line points from the word 'Philippines' to the highlighted country.

Philippines

Social Weather Stations

Globalization and Trade

Filipinos tend to think globalization is good for their country, though this support is narrow compared to most other countries polled. A majority supports requiring that labor standards be included in trade agreements, though this is the smallest majority of 10 countries polled.

- Filipinos think globalization is good for their country by 49% to 32%. They are among three countries out of 18 where only pluralities—not majorities—believe this.
- A majority of respondents (55%) think “minimum standards for working conditions” should be part of trade agreements.
- Asked if the Philippines should “as a general rule” comply with adverse decisions made by the World Trade Organization, Filipinos are equally divided: 48% believe it should and 49% believe it should not.

Climate Change

Most Filipinos are convinced that action must be taken to deal with global warming, which they consider a threat to their interests.

- Three-quarters (76%) of those polled in the Philippines say steps need to be taken to address climate change. This includes 49% who believe changes will be gradual and that therefore only low-cost steps should be taken and 27% who believe immediate action is needed “even if this involves significant costs.” Only 18% feel no steps having economic costs should be taken “until we are sure it is really a problem.”

Future of the United Nations

Filipinos are unusually reluctant to give the United Nations new powers and are among those most resistant to accepting UN decisions.

- Filipinos are divided about allowing the UN to establish a standing peacekeeping force (46% favor, 44% oppose) and about permitting the UN to investigate human rights violations within countries (46% favor, 46% oppose). The other 13 countries polled all support such measures.

- The Philippines is the only country where a majority rejects giving the UN the authority to regulate the international arms trade (58%). They also are the most opposed (56%) to allowing the UN to impose a tax on the international sale of arms or oil.
- Filipinos (46% to 26%) tend to say their government should *not* accept UN decisions that go against its preferred policy (28% do not answer). Only three other publics out of 16 polled lean against abiding by such decisions, though two more are divided.

US Leadership

Filipinos show very positive attitudes toward the United States compared to other publics. They tend to trust the United States to act responsibly in the world, believe it should enforce international law and want it to keep its current number of overseas military bases. A plurality even favors increasing US military presence in East Asia.

- Filipinos are the only public out of 15 polled with a majority (57%) that does not think the United States is “playing the role of world policeman more than it should be.”
- 85% of the Philippine public believes that the United States can be trusted to act responsibly in the world a great deal (48%) or somewhat (37%). That’s the highest level of confidence among 15 publics polled.
- A majority of Filipinos (55%), like most other publics, believe the United States should do its share in resolving international problems “together with other countries.” Only 20% agree that the United States should “continue to be the preeminent world leader in solving international problems” and only 16% say it should withdraw from world affairs.
- Three-fourths of Filipinos (78%) think the United States should either keep the current number of overseas military bases (60%) or increase them (18%). Only 19% say the United States should have fewer bases.
- Nearly half (46%) think the United States should increase its military presence in East Asia; only 36% say it should be decreased. A few (3%) say current levels should be maintained.

Rise of China

Filipinos—unlike most other publics—do not believe that China’s economy will catch up with the US economy. Majorities are confident that China, Japan and the United States will act responsibly in the world.

- Only 38% of Filipinos believe that China will catch up with the US economically, while a plurality (42%) believes that the US economy will always be larger than China’s.
- Most Filipinos say that it would be equally positive and negative (42%) or mostly positive (26%) if China were to catch up with the United States. Just 17% say it would be mostly negative.
- 57% say they trust China to act responsibly in the world. That’s fewer than trust Japan (67%) and far fewer than trust the US (85%).