



Ukraine

Kiev International Institute of Sociology

Globalization and Trade

Majorities in Ukraine view globalization as good and generally believe international trade has positive effects on their country. Overwhelming majorities support labor and environmental standards in trade agreements.

- 55% of Ukrainians say that globalization is “mostly good” for their country.
- Large majorities believe that international trade is good for the Ukrainian economy (78%) and Ukrainian companies (69%).
- Two-thirds (66%) say that trade is good for “consumers like you,” though a more modest 53% agrees that it is good for “your own standard of living.”
- Two-thirds (66%) believe trade is good for creating jobs in the Ukraine (14% bad) but only half (50%) think it is positive for “job security for Ukrainian workers” (16% negative).
- More than four out of five respondents (85%) believe countries signing trade agreements should be required to maintain “minimum standards for working conditions.”
- Only 40% of Ukrainians see international trade as good for the environment, while one in four (25%) say it is bad and more than a third (36%) do not reply.
- An overwhelming majority (88%) says environmental protections should be included in trade agreements.
- Just 40% say their country should comply with adverse World Trade Organization rulings “as a general rule” while 29% say it depends and 12% say their country should not comply.

Climate Change

Ukrainians believe that global warming is real and that it could threaten their national interests. Most think measures should be taken to address climate change, though they disagree about their urgency.

- Two-thirds of Ukrainians (66%) think global warming could threaten their national interests in the next decade.
- 67% of Ukrainians believe that climate change is a problem that needs to be addressed, but they are divided between 37% who favor low-cost, gradual measures and 30% who think immediate steps are necessary even if they involve “significant costs.” Only 14% believe no costs should be incurred until “we are sure that it is really a problem.”

- Nearly three-fourths (72%) think developed countries should provide aid to less developed countries that promise to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Genocide and Darfur

A plurality of Ukrainians think the United Nations has the responsibility to prevent severe human rights violations and a large majority says the international body has the right to do so.

- Seven in 10 Ukrainians surveyed (69%) believe the UN Security Council should have the right to authorize the use of force to prevent severe human rights violations such as genocide.
- 40% believe that the Security Council has the “responsibility” to authorize force in such cases and 16% do not, though 44% decline to answer.
- On Darfur, about a third of those polled (32%) say the United Nations either has the right (22%) or the responsibility (10%) to authorize military intervention. Only 16% believe the United Nations does not have the right to take such action. But half (52%) declined to answer.
- A majority (56%) would not contribute Ukrainian troops to an international peacekeeping force in Darfur. Again, large numbers (32%) declined to respond.

Future of the United Nations

Ukrainians generally support granting new powers to the United Nations, particularly in the area of human rights, but views are divided on whether their government should abide by less than optimal UN decisions. Large numbers, however, declined to answer many questions about the UN.

- Two-thirds of Ukrainians (66%) support giving the UN the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights, while smaller majorities support giving the UN the power to regulate the international arms trade (57%) and establish a standing UN peacekeeping force (54%).
- Ukrainians lean in favor of a proposal that would allow the UN to impose a small tax on the international sale of arms or oil (44% to 20%), though more than a third (36%) decline to answer.
- A large majority (69%) believes the UN Security Council should have the right to authorize the use of force to prevent severe human rights violations such as genocide. Modest majorities believe the UN Security Council should have the right to authorize the use of force to stop countries from acquiring nuclear weapons (51%), and to stop them from producing the fuel that could be used to make nuclear weapons (52%).
- Ukrainians are divided about whether their country should accept adverse UN decisions: 30% agree that it should, 32% say that it should not, and 38% decline to answer.

US Leadership

Ukrainians overwhelmingly reject the idea that the United States should continue to be the world’s preeminent leader, believe it plays the role of world policeman more than it should and would like it to decrease its overseas military presence. Nonetheless, they tend to trust the United States to act responsibly.

- Very few (3%) agree that the United States “should continue to be the preeminent world leader.” Instead, a slight majority (52%) says the United States should “do its share” to address world problems

“together with other countries,” while a third (34%) thinks it should withdraw from most efforts to solve international problems.

- Two-thirds of the Ukrainian public (67%) believes the United States is acting as world policeman “more than it should be.” About the same percentage (69%) says the United States does not have the responsibility to play such a role.
- A significant majority (62%) feels that the United States should reduce the number of military bases it has overseas.
- At the same time Ukrainians are one of the few publics polled that tend to trust the United States to act responsibly in the world: 49% say they trust the United States at least somewhat while 37% say they do not.
- 63% do not think the United States considers Ukraine’s interests in its foreign policy decisions.
- A slight majority of Ukrainians (52%) think relations with the United States are staying about the same and 29% say they are improving (worsening 9%).
- Ukrainians believe the United States has considerable influence in the world, giving it an average rating of 9.0 on a 10-point scale, more than Russia (7.5) or Germany (6.5).

Rise of China

Ukrainians lean toward believing that China will catch up with the US economically and have somewhat mixed feelings about this prospect. They tend to trust the dominant powers in Asia to act responsibly and view relations with all three countries as relatively stable.

- A plurality (43%) believes China’s economy will eventually grow to equal the US economy, (20% disagree) but large numbers (36%) decline to answer.
- Ukrainian views about whether seeing China catch up to the United States would be good or bad are mixed. More say it would be positive (30%) than say it would be negative (12%) but many view it as equally positive and negative (27%) or do not answer (31%).
- Ukrainians tend to trust the Chinese to “act responsibly in the world” by 46% to 29%. This is considerably lower, however, than the majority (57%) that trusts Japan to act responsibly.
- Ukrainians (62%) do not think that China takes Ukrainian interests into account when making foreign policy, but they also do not think that Japan does (64%).
- China’s world influence is given a 5.9 on a 10-point scale, below Japan’s (6.5) and well below the United States’ (9.0).
- 58% say their bilateral relationship with China is staying about the same (getting better 14%, worse 3%), while 62% say relations with Japan are stable.