INSIGHTS FROM THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY SURVEY

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FEBRUARY 7, 2023



BACKGROUND

"Most near-future fictions are boring. It's always dark and always raining, and people are so unhappy."

- Haruki Murakami



OVERVIEW

What we Did

A global survey of Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), and National Endowment for Democracy (NED)'s global partners and other democratic reformers conducted by Ipsos

What it Means for You

- Inform: Broaden understanding of what a positive future of democracy could look like in the digital age.
- Inspire: Use insights to inspire tangible action locally and provide ideas for the global internet governance and development community to collectively strengthen democracy.



SURVEY METHODOLOGY



RESPONDENTS

518 democratic reformers from **97** countries were interviewed who are part of the CIPE, NDI, IRI, and NED network.



COLLECTION DATES

May 3 to June 22, 2022



METHODOLOGY

Online surveys in 6 languages (English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian, and Mandarin)

Survey link was sent by CIPE, NDI, IRI, and NED staff to their community of democratic reformers.

Ipsos sent reminders to the respondents.

Note: All results are expressed as a percentage (%) Significance level: 95% significance



PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

518 DEMOCRATIC REFORMERS REACHED**



^{*} RESPONDENTS FROM EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, LIBYA, MAURITANIA, PALESTINE, SYRIA, TUNISIA

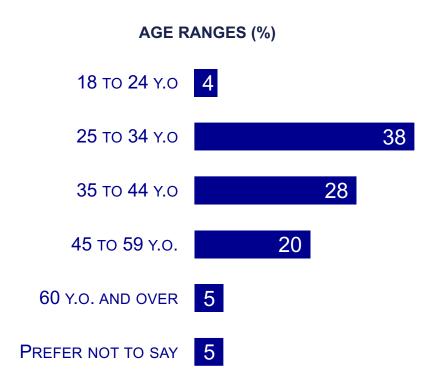


^{**} TOTAL IS SUPERIOR TO 518 BECAUSE MENA REGION RESPONDENTS ARE COUNTED IN AFRICA AND ASIA PACIFIC

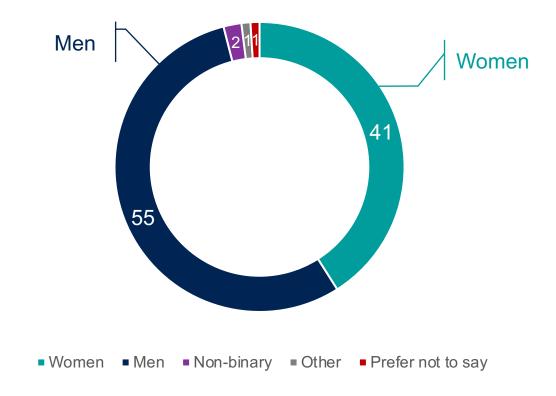
AGE AND GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS

Question "What is your age?" / "How would you describe your gender identity?"

AVERAGE AGE: 38.3 YEARS OLD



GENDER BREAKDOWN (%)





RESPONDENTS' AFFILIATION

Question "What type of organization do you work for?"

Non-governmental organization (NGO) or other civil society organization 59 Think tank Business association or chamber of commerce Social activism or advocacy Business or self-employed Academia Local or national government Media 2 International financial institution (e.g., World Bank) or

Other

6

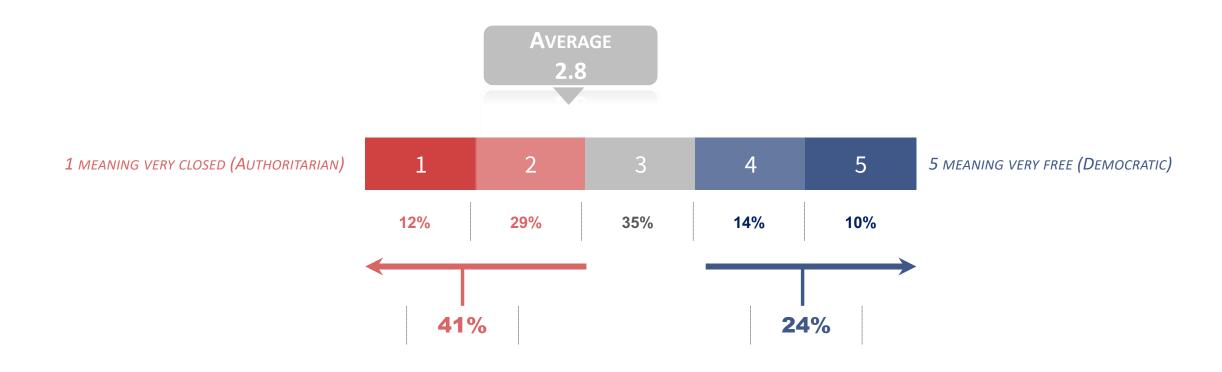
intergovernmental organization (e.g., United Nations)

In %



RESPONDENTS' LEVEL OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FREEDOMS

Question "How would you generally describe the political, economic, and social freedoms in the country you live in?"





RESPONDENTS' LEVEL OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FREEDOMS

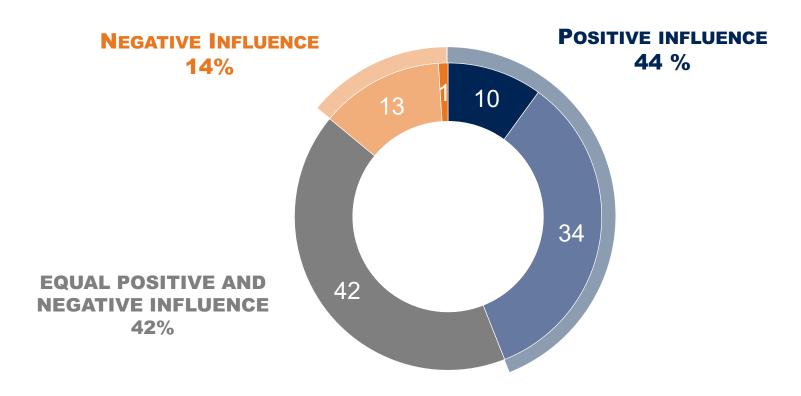
Question "How would you generally describe the political, economic, and social freedoms in the country you live in?" **AVERAGE AUTHORIARIAN DEMOCRATIC** GLOBAL 2.8 NORTH AMERICA 2 2.9 SOUTH AMERICA 2.9 EUROPE 3.3 3 5 MENA 2.5 **AFRICA** 2.5 ASIA PACIFIC 2.8 1 (VERY CLOSED) 5 (VERY FREE)





THE INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET ON DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS IN THEIR COUNTRY

Question "How would you rate the influence of the Internet on democracy and rights in your country?"



A STRONG POSITIVE INFLUENCE

A MOSTLY POSITIVE INFLUENCE (THOUGH IT HAS HAD SOME NEGATIVE EFFECTS)

An equal positive and negative influence

A MOSTLY NEGATIVE INFLUENCE (THOUGH IT HAS HAD SOME POSITIVE EFFECTS)

A STRONG NEGATIVE INFLUENCE



THE INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET ON DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS IN THEIR COUNTRY — BY REGION %

POSITIVE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE INFLUENCE Question "How would you rate the influence of the Internet on democracy and rights in your country?" GLOBAL NORTH AMERICA SOUTH AMERICA 3 EUROPE MENA AFRICA ASIA PACIFIC



A MOSTLY POSITIVE INFLUENCE (THOUGH IT HAS HAD SOME NEGATIVE EFFECTS)

An equal positive and negative influence

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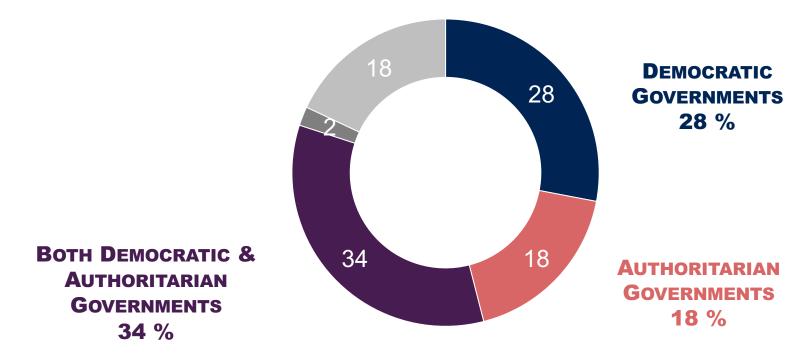
A STRONG NEGATIVE INFLUENCE

%



THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THAT HAS BENEFITED MORE FROM THE INTERNET AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Question "Which type of government has, in general, benefited more from the Internet and digital technologies and used them more effectively to increase its strength and justify its system of governance?"



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS

BOTH TYPES OF GOVERNMENTS
HAVE BENEFITED EQUALLY

NEITHER TYPE OF GOVERNMENTS
HAS BENEFITED

Don't know



THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THAT HAS BENEFITED MORE FROM THE INTERNET AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES – BY REGION

Question "Which type of government has, in general, benefited more from the Internet and digital technologies and used them more effectively to increase its strength and justify its system of governance?"

In %	GLOBAL
Democratic governments	28
Authoritarian governments	18
Both types of governments have benefited equally	34
Neither type of government has benefited	2
I don't know	18

NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
17	14	19	27	35	33
29	34	25	10	12	14
44	40	35	31	32	32
-	-	2	5	2	2
10	12	19	27	19	19



THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS IN WHICH TECHNOLOGY CAN BE USED AS A FORCE FOR GOOD

In % Question "In your opinion, what are the most important ways in which technology can be used as a force for good?" 35 Increase access to information 34 Hold governments, individuals and/or companies accountable 33 Improve **transparency** in government and/or business processes 33 Increase **participation** in the democratic process Tackle corruption 31 31 Increase inclusion of marginalized populations, like women and minorities 30 Create economic opportunity 29 Improve the delivery of public services Facilitate collective action on global challenges (climate change, healthcare, migration, etc.) Improve the integrity of elections 15 Enhance the quality or relevance of information



WORRIES ABOUT THE INTERSECTION OF DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGY

Question "What worries you most about the intersection of democracy and technology, currently and in envisioning the next decade?"





WORRIES ABOUT THE INTERSECTION OF DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGY – BY REGION

Question "What worries you most about the intersection of democracy and technology, currently and in envisioning the next decade?"

IN %	GLOBAL
Disinformation / misinformation	63
Hate speech and online harassment	51
Misuse of big data (i.e., use of personal data for commercial purposes, like advertising & marketing)	31
Surveillance	30
Absent or improper regulation of technology	26

NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
65	66	73	59	68	51
50	54	47	59	52	51
25	40	38	29	29	28
44	34	38	16	24	27
27	17	26	29	25	28



THE KEY PRINCIPLES OR VALUES THAT SHOULD UNDERPIN A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Question "In your opinion, what are the key principles or values that should underpin a democratic future in the digital age?" **In %** 54 Freedom of expression 47 **Privacy** and data protection 41 **Transparency** in institutions and technologies 38 **Personal safety** and security Standards and regulation that ensure interoperability, 34 inclusion, and equal opportunity in digital spaces Freedom of assembly and association 24 23 Inclusive access to the internet and other vital technologies 20 Universal and open access to the internet's content 15 Governance of the internet and other vital technologies Individual agency



THE KEY PRINCIPLES OR VALUES THAT SHOULD UNDERPIN A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE — BY REGION

Question "In your opinion, what are the key principles or values that should underpin a democratic future in the digital age?"

IN %	GLOBAL
Freedom of expression	54
Privacy and data protection	47
Transparency in institutions and technologies	41
Personal safety and security	38
Standards and regulation that ensure interoperability, inclusion, and equal opportunity in digital spaces	34

NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
44	54	42	65	62	57
54	29	55	46	43	49
35	49	45	49	36	46
25	26	40	44	37	42
44	57	36	27	30	28



THE APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE FUTURE

Question "Do you think these potential applications of technology would be beneficial for democracy in the future?"

% BENEFICIAL

Providing an **enabling digital environment for protected political mobilization** and participation

Leveraging technology to **crowd source ideas**, decisions, and solutions to public policy challenges

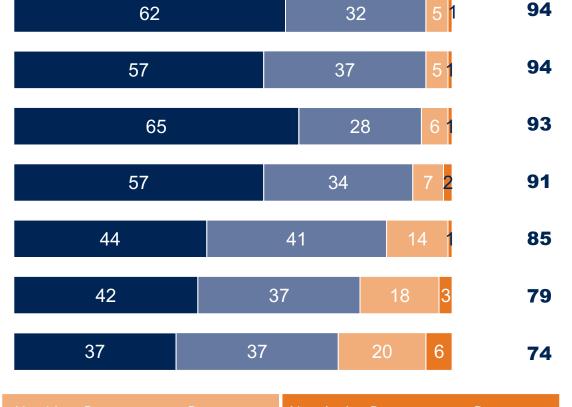
Facilitating **encrypted communications** to exercise democratic participation (e.g., developing secure platforms for online voting or using messaging and social media platforms for collecting policy input and preferences)

Improving algorithms to promote the spread of unbiased journalism as opposed to the virality of a post

Creating **dedicated funding streams** to reduce or mitigate harms caused by technology (e.g., the creation of a fund to support individuals impacted by data breaches or to mitigate the environmental impact of data mining)

Providing free or subsidized access to a global marketplace for businesses to sell goods and services

Promoting ownership and ethical options for monetization of personal data (i.e., the ability of a consumer to sell one's data for advertisements)



VERY BENEFICIAL FOR DEMOCRACY

SOMEWHAT BENEFICIAL FOR DEMOCRACY

NOT VERY BENEFICIAL FOR DEMOCRACY

NOT AT ALL BENEFICIAL FOR DEMOCRACY



THE APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE FUTURE — BY REGION

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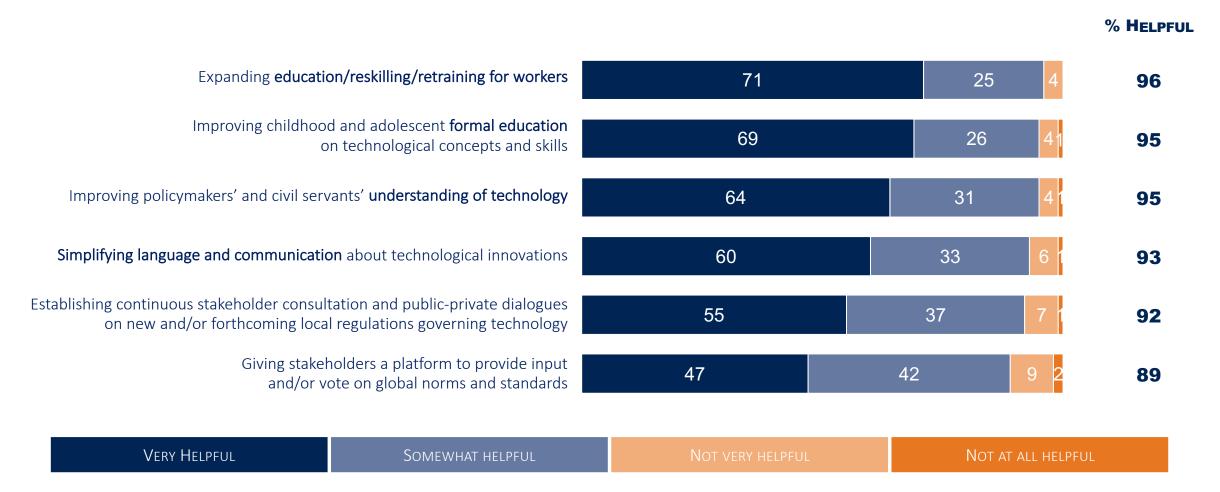
GLOBAL	% BENEFICIAL
94	Providing an enabling digital environment for protected political mobilization and participation
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91	Improving algorithms to promote the spread of unbiased journalism as opposed to the virality of a post
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NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
98	89	91	93	94	97
94	97	92	95	95	94
92	83	94	92	95	92
90	94	89	92	91	93
83	77	82	86	88	87



MECHANISMS OR CHANNELS THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY IN THE FUTURE

Question "Given that technological innovation often outpaces society's understanding of technology as well as the regulations that govern technology, do you think the following mechanisms or channels would be helpful to bridge the gap in the future?"





MECHANISMS OR CHANNELS THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY IN THE FUTURE

Question "Given that technological innovation often outpaces society's understanding of technology as well as the regulations that govern technology, do you think the following mechanisms or channels would be helpful to bridge the gap in the future?"

% H ELPFUL	GLOBAL
Expanding education/reskilling/retraining for workers	96
Improving childhood and adolescent formal education on technological concepts and skills	95
Improving policymakers' and civil servants' understanding of technology	95
Simplifying language and communication about technological innovations	93
Establishing continuous stakeholder consultation and public-private dialogues on new and/or forthcoming local regulations governing technology	92

NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
96	89	91	100	98	98
98	94	95	96	93	97
87	97	96	97	97	95
98	86	93	96	93	94
81	91	87	95	97	94



EFFECTIVE WAYS TO SHAPE GLOBAL NORMS AND STANDARDS THAT STRENGTHEN TRUST IN FUTURE APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

Question "What are effective ways to shape global norms and standards that strengthen trust in future applications of technology?" IN % Improving accessibility of digital education training and curricula, 59 including for decision-makers Mandating technology platform transparency and 57 accountability or demonopolizing the tech industry Establishing rules and regulations around the application of 45 new and emerging technologies Instituting clear processes for meaningful and continuous engagement (e.g., giving citizens a digital 39 voice at the international level through crowd sourced input) Promoting alternative online business models that reflect democratic values 38 (e.g., privacy, respect for human rights) Establishing a supranational norm- and standards-setting body 33 anchored in democratic principles and rights Improving research on the implications of technology



EFFECTIVE WAYS TO SHAPE GLOBAL NORMS AND STANDARDS THAT STRENGTHEN TRUST IN FUTURE APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY — BY REGION

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% In total	GLOBAL
Improving accessibility of digital education training and curricula, including for decision-makers	59
Mandating technology platform transparency and accountability or demonopolizing the tech industry	<i>57</i>
Establishing rules and regulations around the application of new and emerging technologies	45
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NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
50	51	61	50	61	59
75	63	46	64	54	60
58	34	50	44	45	39
38	43	31	41	38	44
23	34	43	34	40	39



"What local, regional, or global initiatives, organizations, or individuals give you hope for a future of democracy that is improved through technology?

How have they used technology to positively enable democracy, and why do they inspire you?"



NEXT STEPS

- 1. Factsheet
- 2. Global multistakeholder focus group
- 3. Local consultations in two countries
- 4. International conferences



