



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2011

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### FIRST HALIFAX/IPSOS GLOBAL SNAPSHOT SURVEY: 24-NATION POLL SHOWS PUBLIC TORN BETWEEN GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD, MORE FOCUS AT HOME DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia—As decision-makers and experts on international security gathered in Halifax to take stock of an historic year in international affairs—and strategize about challenges ahead—a survey of people in 24 countries found the public in most torn between a desire for greater international involvement by their countries, and a need to focus more attention at home.

The first Halifax/Ipsos Global Snapshot survey conducted for the Halifax International Security Forum by the global research company Ipsos, found that majorities in most countries wanted their nations to support the growth of democracy in the world, help countries hit by natural disasters or famines, and assist countries with less developed economies. At the same time, 8 out of 10 polled said that difficult economic issues meant their countries should “focus less on the world and more at home.” Ipsos surveyed 18,682 adults from 24 countries between October 7-20, 2011.

“Most people want their nations to be engaged citizens of the world, but economic pressures prompt people to look inward,” said Peter Van Praagh, president of the Halifax International Security Form. “This is understandable. It’s up to informed leaders to show how international cooperation leads to greater security and helps to create economic opportunity at home. This weekend’s gathering in Halifax provides an opportunity for some 300 leaders from more than 40 countries to do just that.”

Leaders from the military, civilian government, business, academia and other sectors in 41 countries are gathering in Halifax this weekend to share ideas and work together on a wide variety of issues that affect international security.

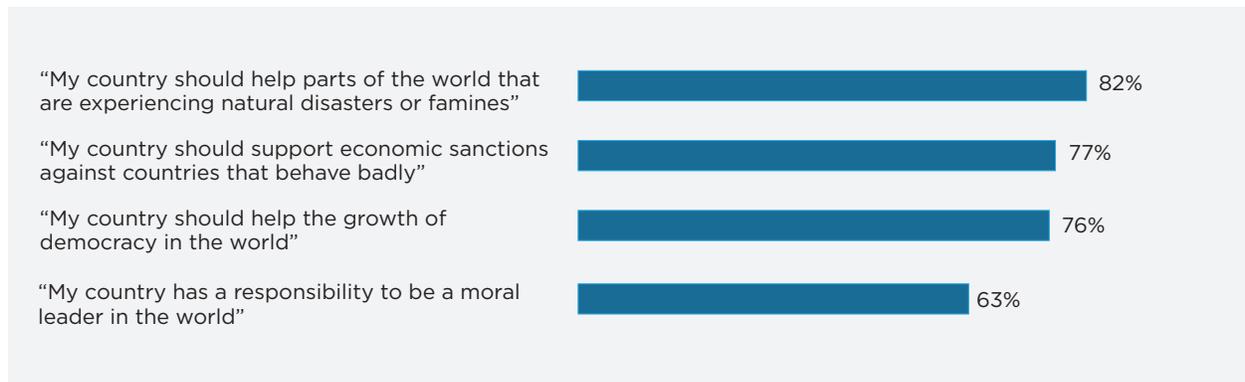
“Ipsos is committed to understanding the evolution of public opinion as a force in world affairs. We welcome this opportunity to work with our partners at the Halifax Security Summit to expose the world’s security leaders and experts to the critical information in this survey,” said Darrell Bricker, CEO of Ipsos Public Affairs.

“In times like these, democratic nations must work together in new ways to promote international security,” said Van Praagh. “And they must work smarter—not only to make better use of declining military resources, but also to build democracy where people yearn for freedom, create economic opportunity where people suffer from deprivation, and promote lasting peace that benefits people everywhere. That is the mission of Halifax.”

## Most People Want Their Countries to be Engaged in the World

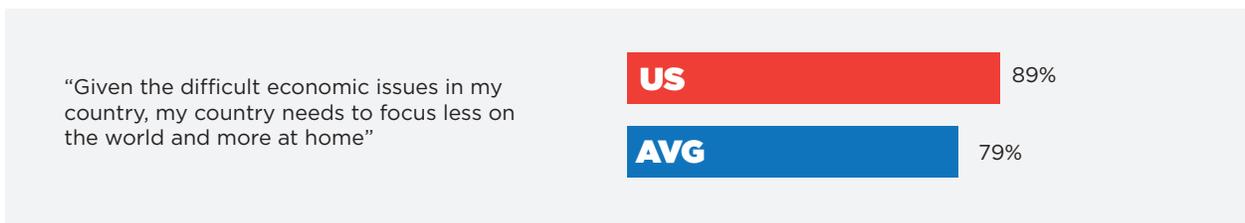
When asked whether their country should play an international role, overwhelming majorities of those surveyed (82%) said their countries should help others suffering from natural disasters or famines, support economic sanctions against states that abuse their citizens (77%), help promote democracy abroad (76%), and assist countries with less developed economies (63%). A majority of those surveyed in the United States wanted their country to engage in these ways, but the support was significantly lower than the global average.

“The publics understand that in today’s interconnected world, it is not an option to wait until the economy recovers before facing global challenges,” said John Glenn, Policy Director of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition.



## But Economic Difficulties Also Prompt People to Look Inward

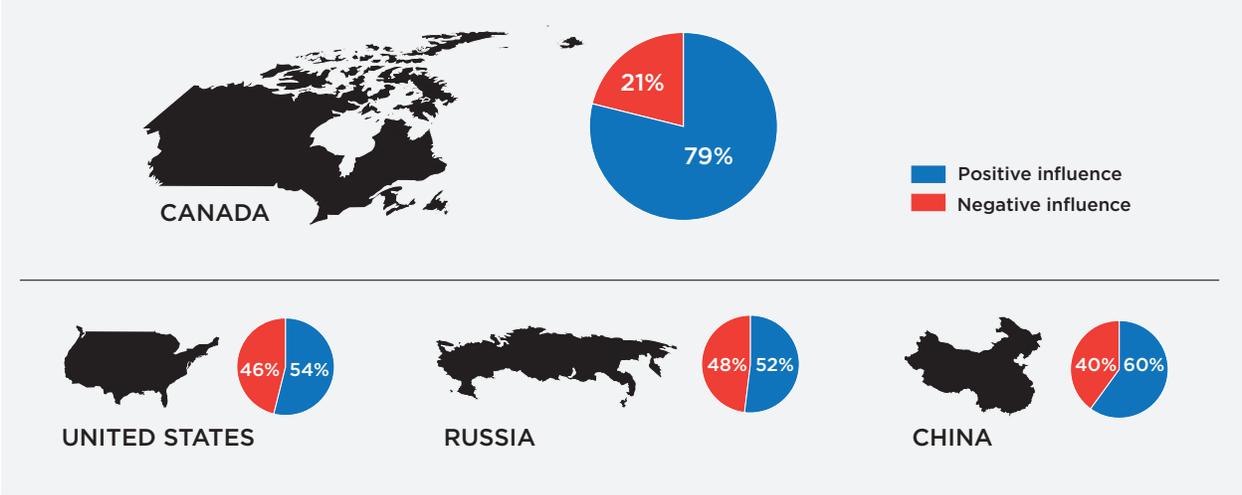
At the same time, given difficult economic issues in their countries nearly 80% of people surveyed want their leaders to focus less on the world and more on domestic issues. In the U.S., nearly 9 out of 10 people surveyed said the country should focus less on the world and more at home. The more likely those surveyed saw their economy as struggling, the less they were to agree that their country should engage with the world.



## Canada Seen as Most Likely to Have a Positive Influence on the World

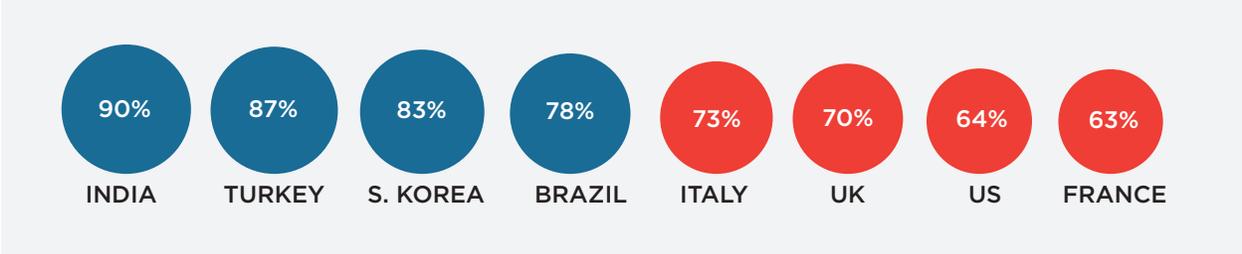
When people were asked to consider whether certain countries or organizations would have a positive or negative influence on world affairs in the next decade, Canada came out on top—with 79% of those surveyed saying that Canada would have a positive influence on the world. The U.S., Russia and China rated lower, with just over half of those surveyed believing those countries would have a positive influence.

“Canada has developed a unique and enviable position among the world’s leading countries. It is both motivated and equipped, in part due to its economic confidence, to make a difference in world affairs. But, even more importantly, its participation seems to be most welcome by the world’s citizens,” said Bricker.



**Emerging Democracies More Willing to Engage Internationally**

Rising democratic countries such as India, Turkey, South Korea and Brazil were more willing to engage in the world than established, developed countries such as Italy, Great Britain, France and the United States.



**About Halifax International Security Forum**

The Halifax International Security Forum is made possible by generous support from the Canadian government and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). For media accreditation to the conference, or to receive additional information, please call 202.688.2470 or visit [www.halifaxtheforum.org](http://www.halifaxtheforum.org).

**About Ipsos**

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