

GALLUP®

# How the World Rates the United Nations

2026 REPORT





## Introduction

The United Nations is under growing pressure to deliver at a time when global cooperation and consensus are becoming harder to achieve. Wars, humanitarian crises and deep geopolitical divisions are straining the multilateral system, just as the UN prepares to name a new Secretary-General.

As the organization enters a new era, understanding global public opinion can offer important context for efforts to strengthen the UN's relevance and effectiveness. Gallup World Poll surveys conducted in 2025 across 137 countries show that globally, views of the organization are more positive than negative overall. Median approval of the UN's job performance is 50%, while 26% of the world disapproves, giving the organization a net approval score of +24.

Even in this environment, the UN's 50% median approval is higher than Gallup's 2025 median approval ratings of the leadership of Germany (48%), China (36%), the United States (31%) and Russia (26%), although the questions are not directly comparable. China, the United States and Russia are all permanent members of the UN Security Council.

But public opinion is far from a consensus. The report demonstrates that the UN enjoys broad support in many countries, faces resistance in others and is less visible to some.

### Global Ratings of the UN



50%

MEDIAN  
APPROVAL



26%

MEDIAN  
DISAPPROVAL



2%

MEDIAN  
DEPENDS



6%

MEDIAN  
UNAWARE



9%

MEDIAN  
DON'T KNOW

# Approval Outweighs Disapproval in Most Countries

Majorities in 67 of the 137 countries surveyed approve of the job the United Nations is doing. Support for the organization is broader still: In 92 countries, approval exceeds disapproval by at least 10 percentage points, while another seven countries lean positive by smaller margins. The largest positive gaps are in Vietnam (+75), Cambodia (+74) and Laos (+71).

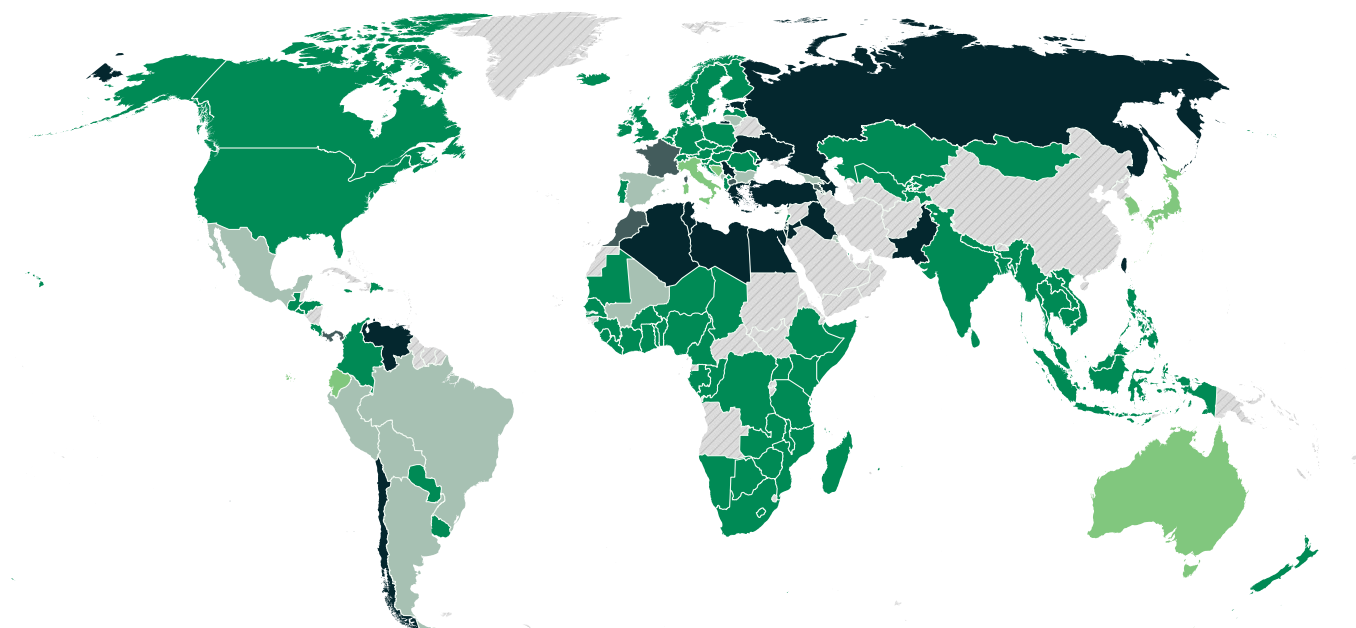
Far fewer countries view the organization's performance negatively. Majorities disapprove in only nine countries. Disapproval exceeds approval by at least 10 percentage points in 19 countries, while six others have smaller negative gaps. The largest negative gaps are in Israel (-61), Russia (-58) and Tunisia (-48). The remaining 13 countries are closely divided, with approval and disapproval within five points of each other.

## Net Approval of the United Nations

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the United Nations?*

Net approval is the percentage who approve minus the percentage who disapprove

■ +10 or more ■ +5 to +9 ■ -4 to +4 ■ -5 to -9 ■ -10 or more ■ No data



Click this [link](#) to view the full data set.



### LARGEST POSITIVE GAPS

|     |            |
|-----|------------|
| +75 | Vietnam    |
| +74 | Cambodia   |
| +71 | Laos       |
| +69 | Madagascar |
| +69 | Tanzania   |



### LARGEST NEGATIVE GAPS

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| -61 | Israel              |
| -58 | Russia              |
| -48 | Tunisia             |
| -45 | State of Palestine* |
| -38 | Iraq                |

\* West Bank and East Jerusalem surveyed in 2025

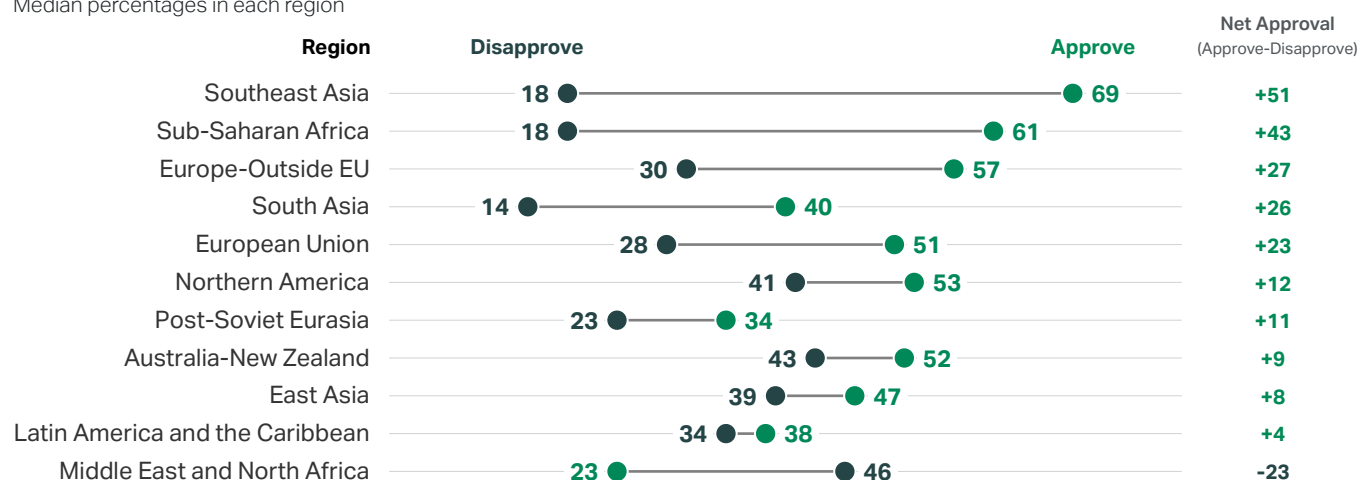
# The UN Holds a Positive Edge in Nearly Every Region and Among Youth

The UN's strongest regional support is in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where approval exceeds disapproval by wide margins. Positive views also prevail across Europe, South Asia, Northern America and Post-Soviet Eurasia.

The picture is less clear-cut elsewhere. Opinion in Latin America and the Caribbean is closely divided, while the Middle East and North Africa is the only region where disapproval is substantially higher than approval.

## Net Approval of the United Nations in 2025, by Region

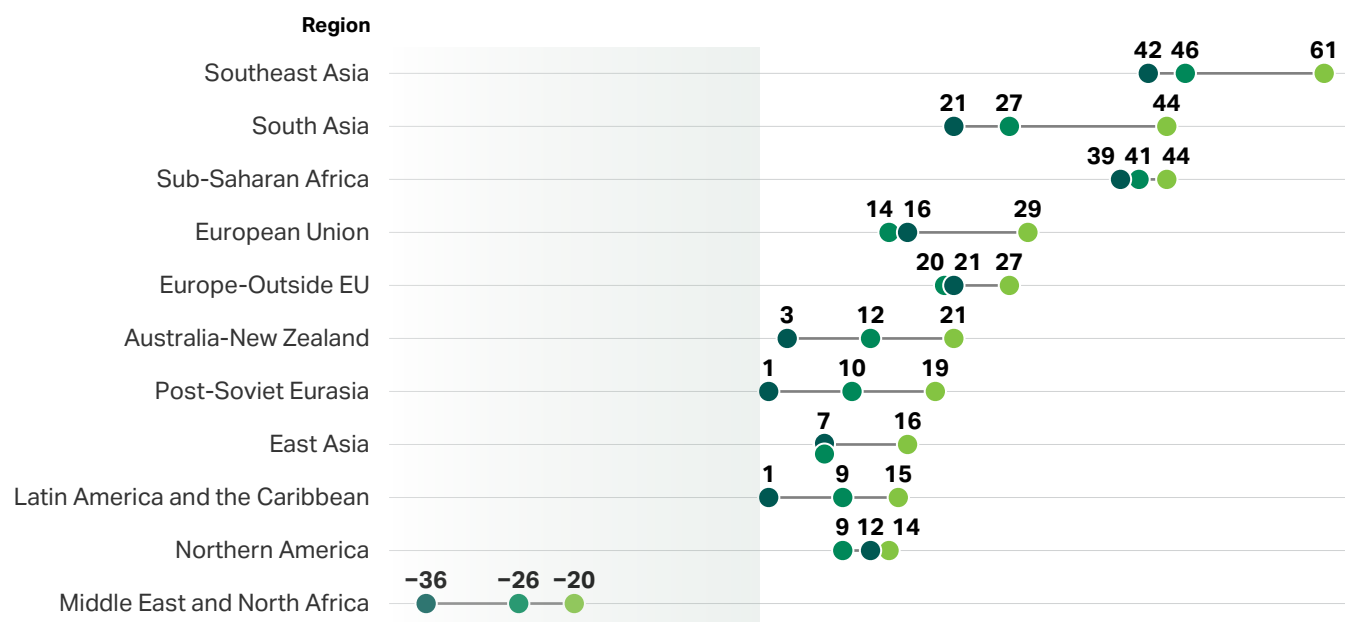
Median percentages in each region



More positive views among younger adults offer the UN a base to build on as it looks to remain relevant to future generations. Adults aged 15 to 29 have the highest median net approval in every region except Northern America, where views differ little by age.

## Net Approval of the United Nations in 2025, by Age

● 15 to 29 ● 30 to 49 ● 50 and over



# Approval and Disapproval Don't Tell Whole Story

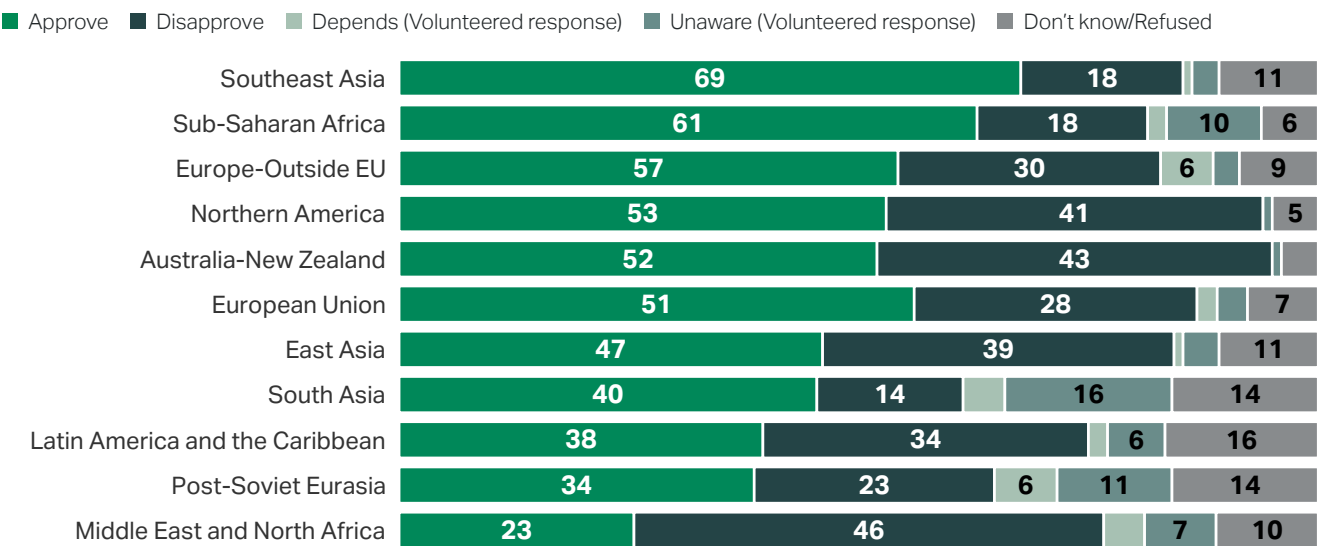
Views of the UN are strongly positive or negative in some countries, but more mixed in others. Sizable percentages say their views depend on the circumstances, are unfamiliar with the organization or don't know enough to venture an opinion, suggesting that views of the UN are less settled in some places.

Gallup asked a related but different question in 2008 in 99 countries also surveyed in 2025, focusing on the job performance of UN leadership and offering different response options. Although the results are not directly comparable, approval also exceeded disapproval in the earlier measure, 44% to 17%. But a much larger percentage fell outside those responses: A median of 37% did not know or refused to answer.

The 2025 measure provides more detail on those who do not approve or disapprove, distinguishing conditional views, unfamiliarity with the UN and those who do not offer an opinion. Regionally, familiarity is most limited in South Asia, where a median of 16% say they are unaware of the organization, while Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest median percentage who don't know or refuse to offer an opinion, at 16%.

## How People Rate the Job the UN Is Doing, by Region

Median percentages in each region



Note: Values less than 5% not labeled

At the country level, nuances in opinion are even more pronounced. In South Korea, 41% say their view depends on the circumstances. In Lesotho, 35% say they are unaware of the UN, while in Bahrain, nearly half (45%) don't know or refuse to offer an opinion.

### CONDITIONAL VIEWS

Highest % saying "depends"

- South Korea: 41%
- Kazakhstan: 23%
- Serbia: 19%
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 18%

### LIMITED FAMILIARITY

Highest % unaware of the UN

- Lesotho: 35%
- Nepal: 34%
- Ethiopia: 31%
- Egypt: 30%

### LIMITED OPINION

Highest % Don't know/Refused

- Bahrain: 45%
- Morocco: 40%
- Jamaica: 35%
- Georgia: 33%

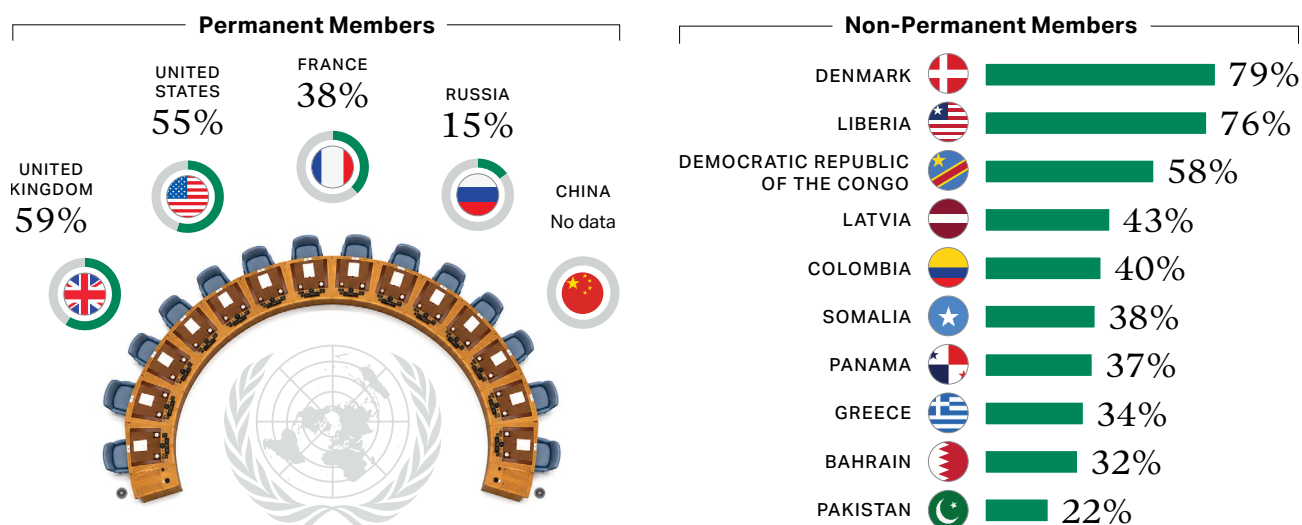
# Views From the Security Council and Where the UN Operates

Public approval of the UN varies widely among populations in countries serving on the UN's primary body for international peace and security, and in places where the organization has a substantial operational presence.

Among 2026 Security Council Member States with 2025 data, approval ranges from 79% in Denmark to 15% in Russia. Among Member States who will join in 2027, approval tops 60% in Zimbabwe, Portugal and Austria, compared with 39% in Kyrgyzstan. The wide range is a reminder that even among countries with a central role in the UN, public support for the organization cannot be taken for granted.

## United Nations Security Council: Approval in 2025

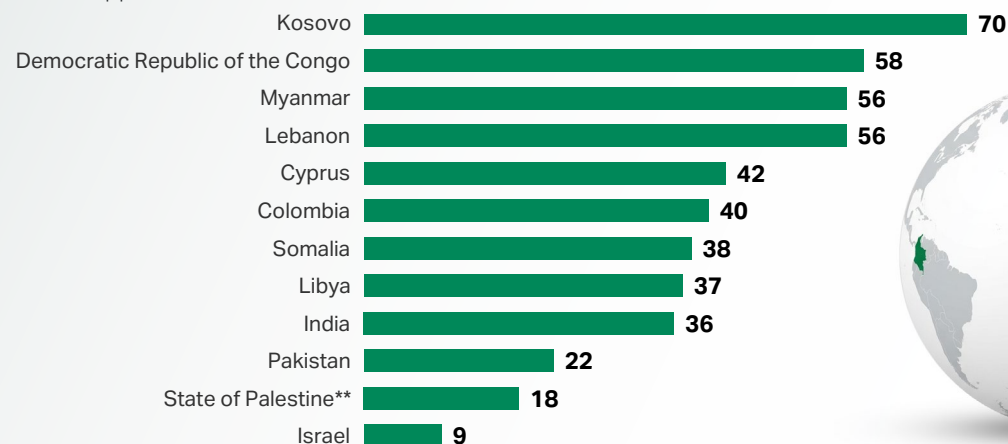
% of adults in Security Council Member States who approve of the UN



Where the UN has a substantial operational presence, public approval is no more uniform. It reaches 70% in Kosovo but falls to 9% in Israel, underscoring that presence alone does not translate into approval.

## Selected Countries/Territories With UN Operational Presence\*

% Who approve



\*Reflects countries where the UN has peacekeeping operations, special political missions or humanitarian operations.

\*\*West Bank and East Jerusalem surveyed in 2025

# Key Takeaways

The next Secretary-General and newly elected Security Council members inherit an organization that is viewed more positively than negatively across much of the world, but whose public standing varies considerably by country and region.

- **The UN has a reservoir of goodwill to build on.** More positive than negative views of the UN across much of the world give the next Secretary-General a base of public support as they work to rebuild trust, demonstrate the UN's value and make the case for continued support from Member States.
- **The fragmented environment extends to public opinion.** Job approval of the UN varies sharply across Security Council Member States, from 79% in Denmark to 15% in Russia, showing that public support for the organization cannot be taken for granted even among countries with a central role in it.
- **Younger adults offer an opportunity for the future.** Across most regions, adults aged 15 to 29 view the UN more positively than older adults. As the organization prepares for a new era, its relatively more positive standing among younger adults offers an opportunity to sustain and strengthen its relevance with future generations.
- **Less-settled views may create opportunities for engagement.** In some places, sizable percentages are unfamiliar with the UN, say their views depend on the circumstances or do not offer a clear opinion. Where familiarity is limited, demonstrating what the UN does and what it delivers may be particularly important.
- **Operational presence does not guarantee public approval.** Public approval varies widely in places where the UN has a substantial operational presence. That suggests that being present and active is not enough to produce positive public assessments; demonstrating what the UN is delivering may be just as important.



## Methodology

These findings are based on nationally representative surveys conducted by telephone or face to face with randomly selected respondents aged 15 and older in 137 countries and territories between March and December 2025.

Surveys typically included approximately 1,000 respondents per country or territory; samples were larger in India. For national adult samples in 2025, margins of sampling error range from  $\pm 2.2$  to  $\pm 5.5$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level and reflect the influence of data weighting.

Scan to  
learn more



GALLUP®

**World Headquarters**

The Gallup Building  
901 F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

**t** +1.877.242.5587

**f** +1.888.500.8282

[www.gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com)