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**SURVEY ON PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING RECENT
EVENTS IN NIGER AND AFRICAN WORKERS'
CONCERNS**

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PREPARED BY:

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation

ITUC-Africa / CSI-Afrique,
Route internationale d'Atakpamé
Centre FOPADESC Agoè-Zongo
LOMÉ - TOGO
+228 22 25 07 10
Email : info@ituc-africa.org

LOME

AUGUST 27, 2023

Introduction

This report presents the findings of a survey conducted by the African Labour Research and Education Institute of the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa). On 26 July 2023, a coup d'état occurred in the Republic of the Niger when the country's presidential guard detained president Mohamed Bazoum, and presidential guard commander general Abdourahamane Tchiani proclaimed himself the leader of a new military junta, shortly after confirming the coup a success. ECOWAS then followed with a threat to intervene militarily to restore democratic order.

The survey aimed to gauge the opinions of African workers about the recent military coup in Niger, the subsequent threat of ECOWAS military intervention, and broader concerns about democracy and workers' rights. The data sheds light on various aspects of public sentiment within the African continent.

Methodology

The survey included ten questions and targeted workers across Africa. The respondents were presented with multiple-choice options for each question. ITUC affiliates and other stakeholders helped to distribute the online survey to their members through various electronic platforms. In all a total of 1022 responses¹ were collected across Africa from formal and informal sector workers. The data was collected between August 14 and August 17, 2023

Key Findings

1. **Employment Status:** The majority of respondents were currently employed as workers, with the highest percentage from West Africa (59%) followed by Southern Africa (12%), East Africa (10%), Central Africa (6%), and North Africa (2%).
2. **Awareness of the Coup:** Almost all respondents (99.9%) were aware of the recent military coup in Niger that led to a change of power. This widespread awareness indicates the significance of the event.
3. **Views on the Coup's Constitutionality and Democracy:** A majority of respondents across all regions (57% in total) believed that the military coup in Niger was unconstitutional and undemocratic.
4. **ECOWAS Intervention:** A notable percentage (82%) of respondents expressed opposition to the Economic Community of West African States

¹ Acknowledgement: We extend our sincere appreciation and acknowledgment to the esteemed affiliates of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) across the African continent. Your commendable efforts in swiftly and effectively disseminating the survey instruments played an instrumental role in the success of this research. Furthermore, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all the participants of the survey. Your commitment to sharing your perspectives and dedicating your time to this initiative is truly commendable.

(ECOWAS) threatening military intervention to restore the deposed president to power. Only 12% expressed support for such intervention.

5. **Preferred Approach to Resolution:** The majority of respondents (89%) favoured a diplomatic and political dialogue approach to resolve the political impasse in Niger. Only a smaller percentage (6%) believed that military intervention would improve the situation.
6. **Predicted Outcomes of Military Intervention:** A substantial majority (85%) of respondents believed that a military intervention would worsen the situation in Niger, considering the security situation in the Sahel region.
7. **Concerns About Regional Impact:** The data indicates that an overwhelming number of respondents (95%) were concerned that an ECOWAS-led military intervention in Niger might affect other African countries as well.
8. **Concerns about Power Retention and Election Manipulation:** The majority of respondents (87%) expressed worry about situations where individuals in power in Africa attempt to extend their rule and manipulate elections.
9. **Impact of Democratic Benefits:** Around 81% of respondents believed that when people do not experience the benefits of democracy, they become less interested in protecting democracy.
10. **Gender Distribution:** The survey included responses from both males (76%) and females (24%), reflecting a gender-diverse sample.

Conclusion

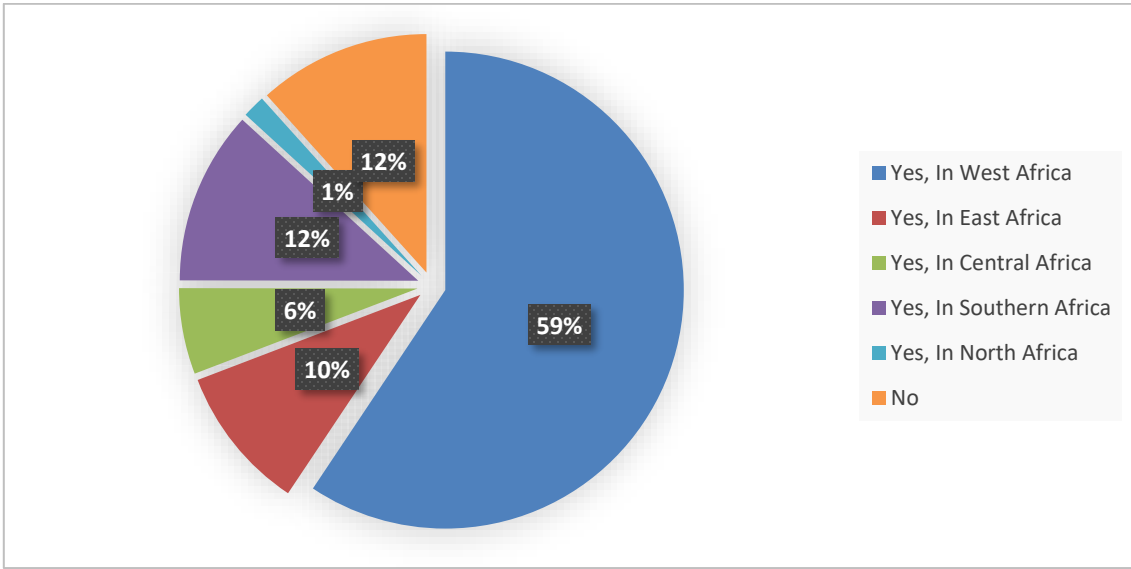
The survey results reflect a broad spectrum of opinions among African workers (in formal and informal sectors) regarding the recent military coup in Niger, the potential for ECOWAS military intervention, and concerns about democracy. A majority expressed opposition to the coup and concerns about its undemocratic nature. Similarly, the effectiveness of military intervention was downplayed by African workers. The preference for diplomatic approaches and worries about the negative outcomes of military action highlight a cautious approach to conflict resolution. These findings offer valuable insights into public sentiment, regional stability, and democracy promotion efforts in Africa. The results are clear. African workers are worried about a military intervention in Niger.

The survey's comprehensive insights highlight critical imperatives for governments and stakeholders in the West African sub-region. Urgent actions are needed to prioritize worker's welfare, uphold constitutional integrity, and align consistently with the ECOWAS agenda for effective and inclusive economic integration.

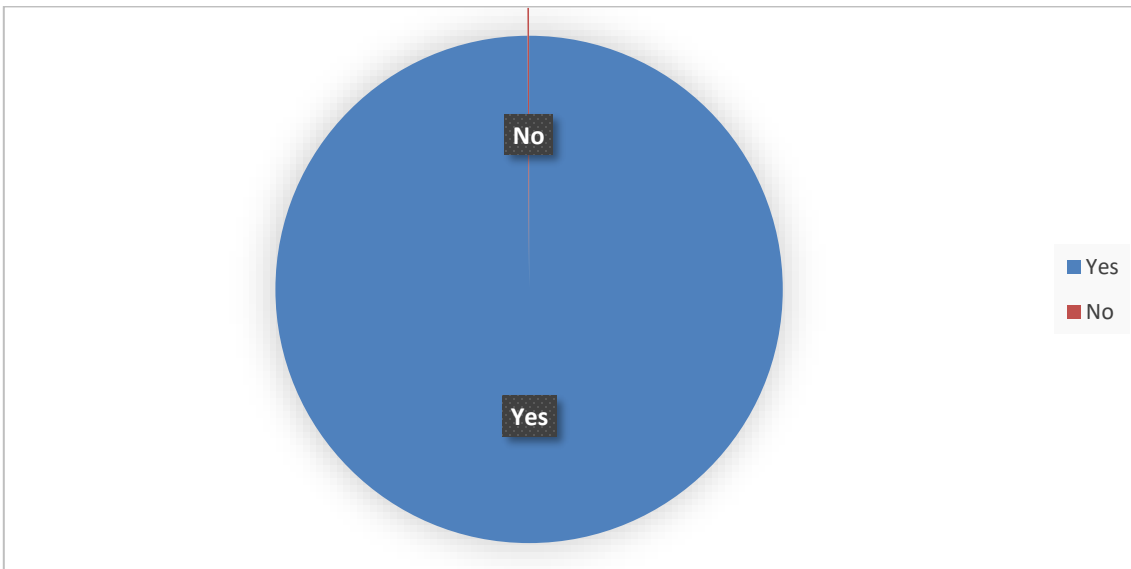
Also, the open counter-threats by Mali and Burkina Faso to join any declared fight by ECOWAS underscore the potential for destabilizing spill-over effects. This risk is further evident through the Niger junta's decree permitting Burkina Faso to intervene on Niger's behalf. The survey's emphasis on people-centred governance resonates as a vital principle for stability and consolidation of democracy. In navigating these challenges, a balanced approach to intervention, conflict prevention mechanisms, and collaborative diplomacy are key. These insights serve as a compass, guiding governments and ECOWAS toward safeguarding democracy, regional stability, and the well-being of African citizens.

The figures below provide graphical insights regarding the outcomes of the survey:

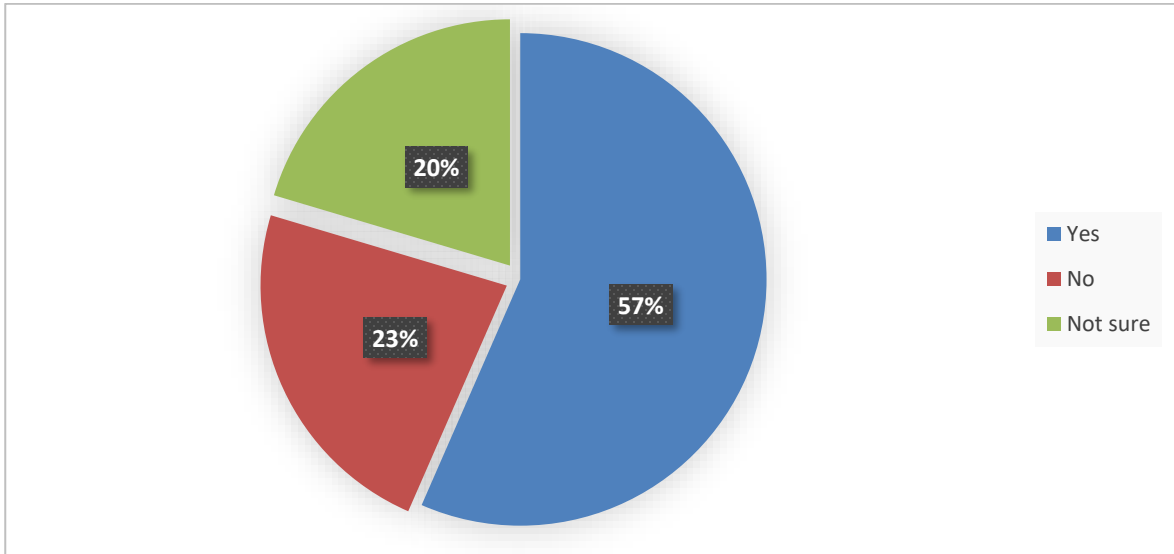
Question 1: Are you currently employed as a worker (formal/informal) in Africa?



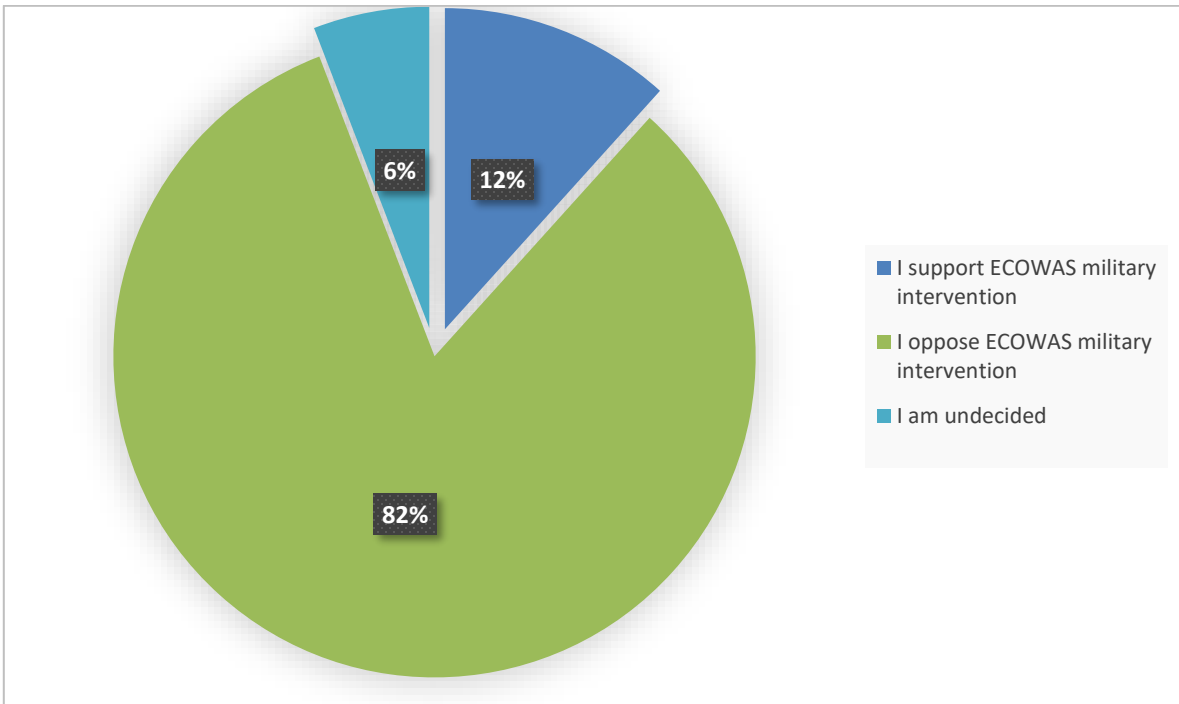
Question 2: Are you aware of the recent military coup in Niger that led to the change of power?



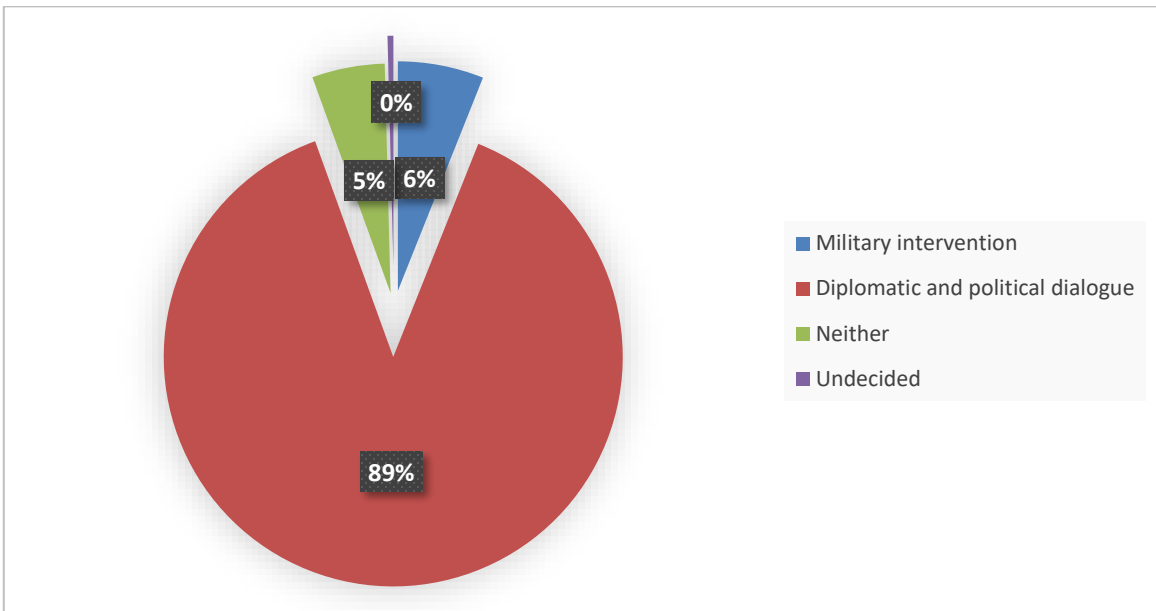
Question 3: Do you believe that the military coup in Niger was unconstitutional and undemocratic?



Question 4: What do you think about the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) threatening to intervene militarily to restore the deposed president to power?

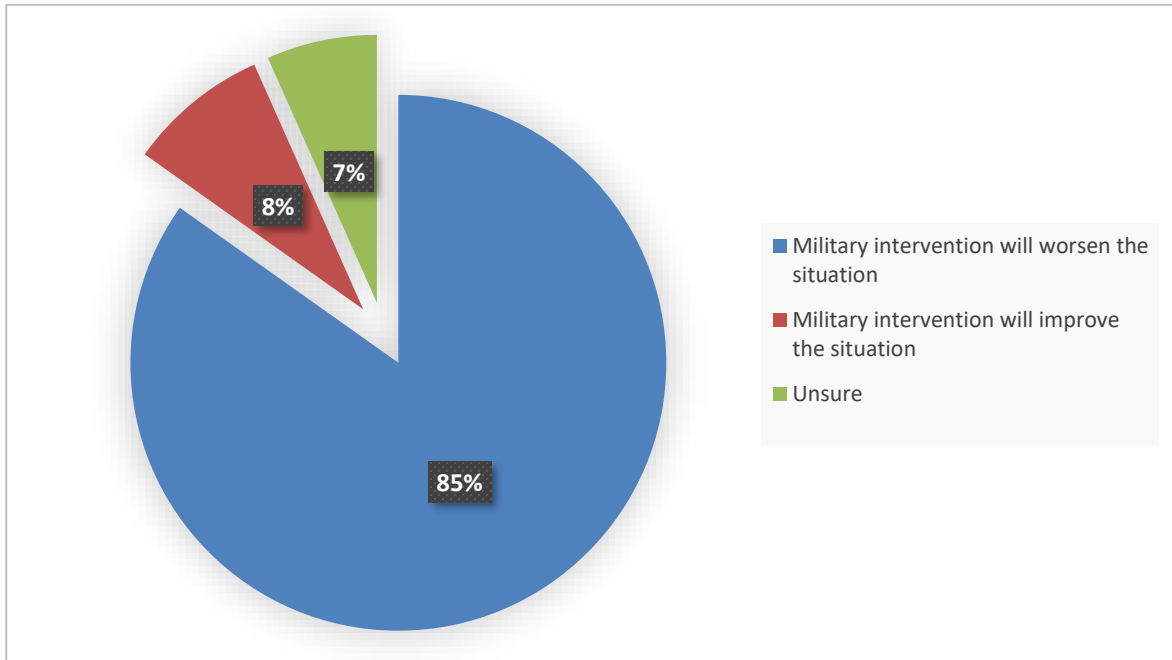


Question 5: In resolving the political impasse in Niger, which approach do you think is better: a military intervention or diplomatic and political dialogue?

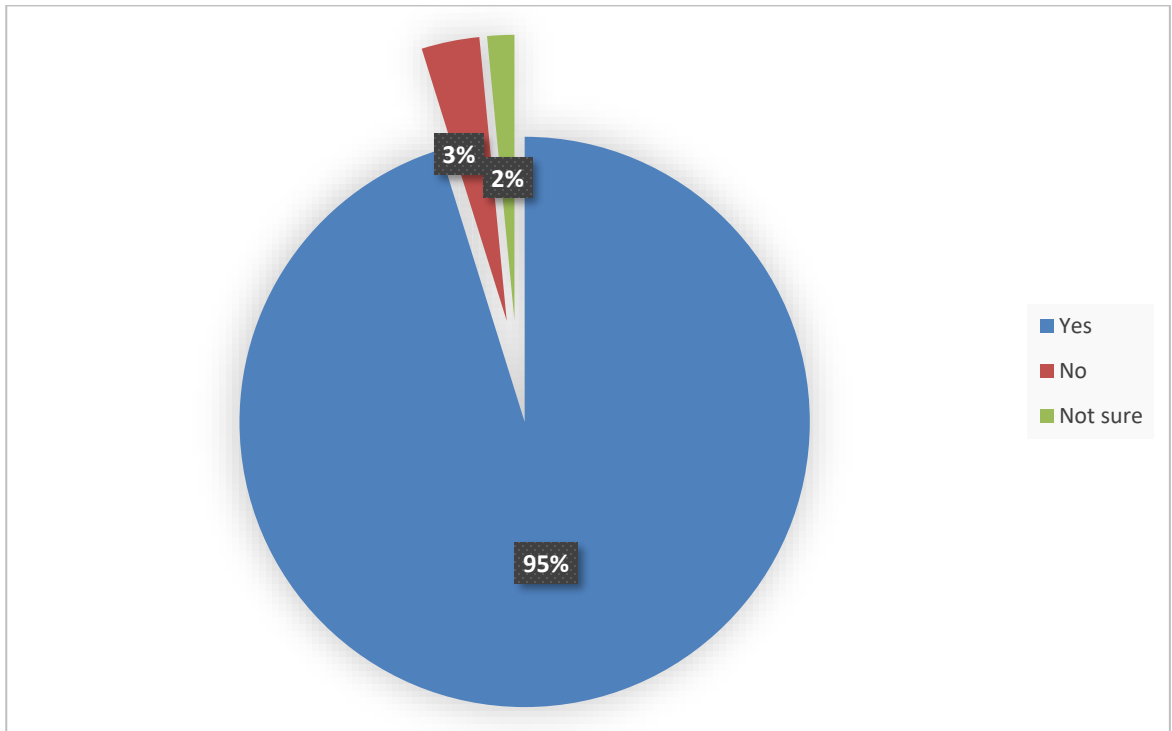


Question 6: Considering the security situation in the Sahel region and the potential impact of an ECOWAS led military intervention, which outcome do you think is more

likely to happen in Niger?

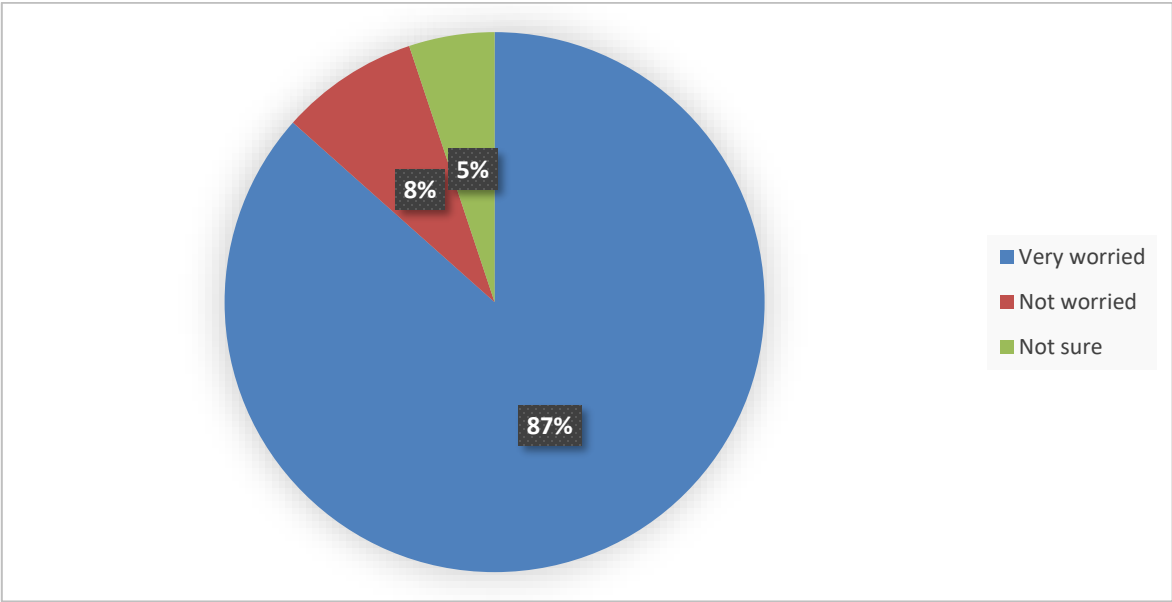


Question 7: Are you concerned that an ECOWAS led military intervention in Niger might affect other African countries too?

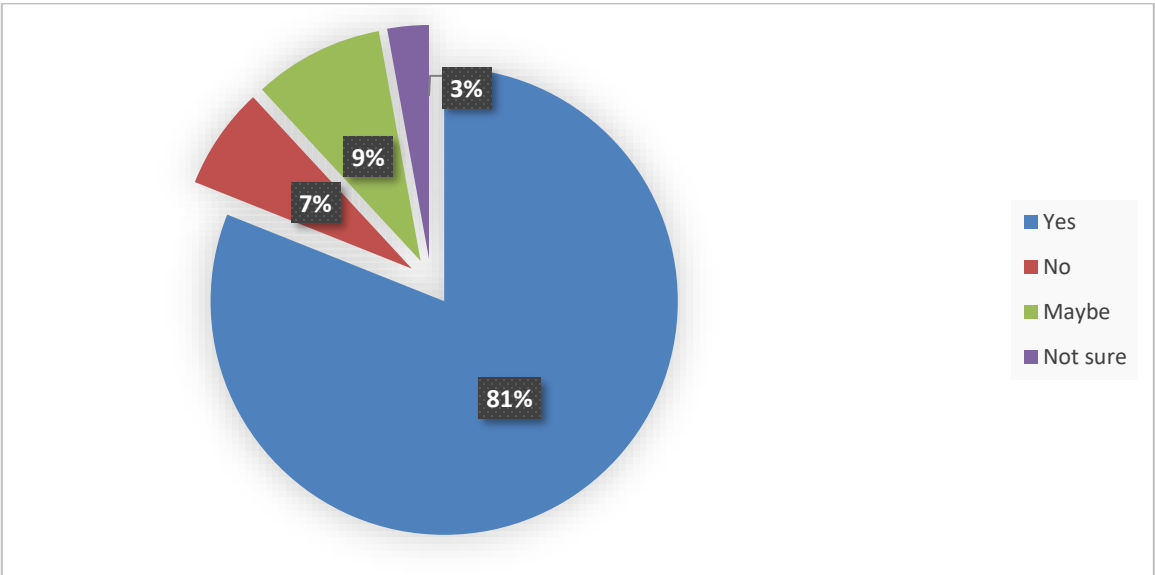


Question 8: Are you worried about situations where people in power try to stay in

charge longer and/or manipulate elections?



Question 9: Do you believe that when people do not experience the benefits of democracy, it makes them less interested in protecting democracy?



Question 10: What is your gender?

