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Climate change professionals expect Europe to demonstrate leadership at UN summit

Climate science endorsed as a basis for action

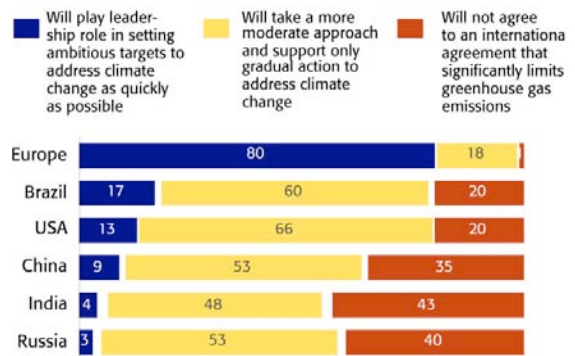
Toronto – A global survey has found that professionals involved in making decisions that have implications for climate change are calling for Europe to take a leadership stance in negotiations in Copenhagen, where leaders from around the world are meeting for a major UN climate conference (COP15).

When asked what role they expect six different countries or groups of countries will play at the Copenhagen climate talks, 80 percent say they most expect Europe to play a leadership role in setting ambitious targets at the conference. China, Brazil, India, Russia, and the US are expected to play a more moderate role at the conference, with about half or more of respondents indicating that they expect these countries to support only gradual action to address climate change. Few climate change professionals expect these countries to lead, and between two and four out of ten predict that they will not agree to an agreement that limits emissions.

These and other findings from a worldwide survey of almost 800 professionals involved in decisions that have an impact on climate change were released today by GlobeScan. Experts surveyed work in all public, private, and voluntary sectors in more than 100 countries.

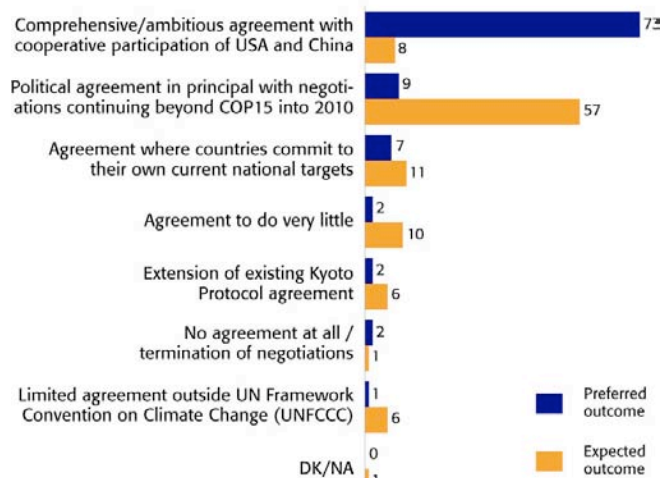
The Agreement: When asked which one of seven possible outcomes of the Copenhagen meeting they would prefer, the vast majority of climate change professionals (73%) surveyed call for a comprehensive and ambitious global agreement with cooperation from the USA and China. However, when given the same seven possible outcomes of the United Nations meeting, only 8 percent predict that such a deal will be reached. Instead, most respondents (57%) expect that the meeting will produce a political agreement in principle, with negotiations continuing beyond the conference and into 2010.

Roles of Countries or Groups of Countries in the COP15 Meeting on Climate Change



The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

Preferred and Expected Outcomes for the COP15 Meeting on Climate Change



Obstacles: Experts doubt that negotiators will agree on how much major developing countries such as China and India will limit the growth of their emissions in the short- and long-term (67% believe agreement on this item is unlikely). Agreement on the management of the money committed to helping developing countries is also predicted by experts to be unlikely. Only 16 percent indicate that they expect an agreement on this.

Performance: Forty-six percent of experts rate the EU's performance on addressing climate change over the past year positively. Far fewer rate the Chinese, American, or Indian government's performance positively. Still, experts surveyed are more than twice as likely to say that the Chinese government has performed well than they are to say that the Indian government has over the last year (14% vs 6%). The US government ranks below the Chinese government, with only 10 percent agreeing that it has performed well over the past year.

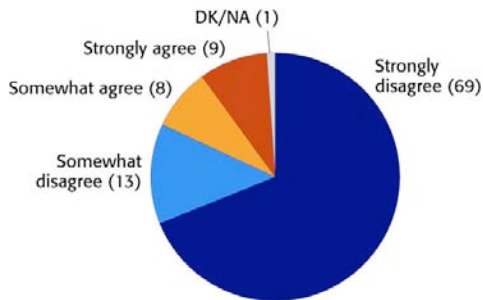
Government Performance on Addressing Climate Change over the Past Year



The white space in this chart represents ratings of "3" and "DK/NA."

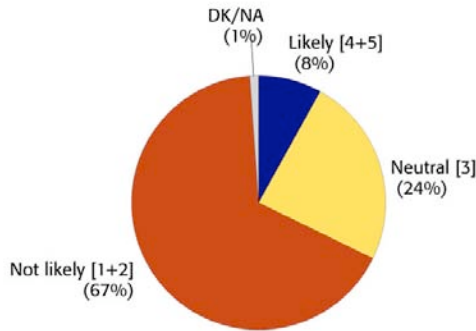
Science: Additionally, the survey results show that 82 percent of experts polled disagree that the science behind human-caused climate change is not strong enough to justify major action to combat climate change. Agreement that investing in climate mitigation strategies now will be less expensive than adapting to the effects of climate change in the future is even stronger, with 90 percent agreeing.

The Science of Human-Caused Climate Change Is Not Solid Enough to Justify Major Climate Change Action



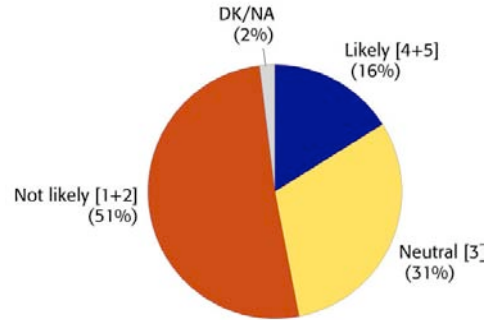
Additional Findings

Likelihood That COP15 Will Produce an Agreement on How Much the Major Developing Countries Will Limit Emissions Growth



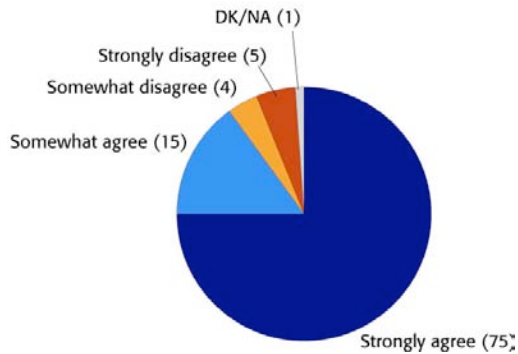
Note: Respondents answered on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 was "Not at all likely" and 5 was "Very likely." No labels were assigned to responses of 2, 3, and 4.

Likelihood That COP15 Will Produce an Agreement on How Money Committed to Helping Developing Countries will be Managed



Note: Respondents answered on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 was "Not at all likely" and 5 was "Very likely." No labels were assigned to responses of 2, 3, and 4.

Mitigating Climate Change Now Will Be Less Costly than Adaptation in the Future



About This Survey: Conducted during November 2009, just prior to the Copenhagen talks, this is the third wave of research that GlobeScan has conducted since 2007 with this panel of professionals. The 770 experts surveyed in November 2009 are based in NGOs, research organizations, multiple private sector enterprises, and governments in 104 countries. Respondents were drawn from the combined networks of numerous supporting organizations over the past three years, including the COMplus Alliance of Sustainable Development Communicators, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The Centre, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainable Development, the World Energy Council (WEC), and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

Contact:

Eric Whan
Director, Sustainability and Environment
GlobeScan
+1 416 969 3087
eric.whan@globescan.com

GlobeScan Incorporated is a global survey research consultancy. We provide evidence-based strategic advice to companies, multilateral institutions, governments, and NGOs in all regions of the world. GlobeScan's unique combination of stakeholder, reputation and sustainability expertise, combined with in-depth understanding of global issues and advanced analytical modelling techniques provide a powerful research platform for effective strategy development.

COMplus is a diverse global alliance of organisations committed to scaling up the impact of sustainable development communications through partnership and collaboration. By offering a platform to share expertise, develop best practice, and create synergies, COMplus actively supports creative and inspiring communications that advance a vision of sustainable development that builds on its social, environmental and economic foundations.

IDRC is a Canadian Crown corporation that works in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world in their search for the means to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies.

Question wording:

1. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
 - e) Investing in mitigating the effects of climate change now will be less costly than adapting to those effects later.
 - f) The science of human-caused climate change is not solid enough to justify major action to fight climate change

3 / 4. As you know, climate change negotiators will meet in December in Copenhagen at COP15 to try to achieve an agreement that will replace the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

3) Which one of the following possible outcomes of the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen this December would you most like to see? SHOW IN ORDER. PICK ONE.

4) And which one of the following possible outcomes of the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen this December do you most expect?

- 01- A comprehensive and ambitious agreement with the cooperative participation of the USA and China
- 02- An agreement where countries commit to their own current national targets
- 03- A limited agreement outside the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- 04- An extension of the Kyoto Protocol, the existing agreement
- 05- A political agreement in principal with negotiations continuing beyond the Copenhagen conference (COP15) into 2010
- 06- An agreement to do very little
- 07- No agreement at all and the termination of negotiations

5. How likely do you think it is that negotiators at COP15 in Copenhagen will come to an agreement on each of the following items?

- b) How much the major developing countries such as China and India will limit the growth of their emissions
- d) How the money committed to helping developing countries will be managed

6. Please indicate what kind of role you think each of the following countries (or groups thereof) will play in the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen this December.

- 01 - It will play a leadership role in setting ambitious targets to address climate change as quickly as possible.
- 02 - It will take a more moderate approach and support only gradual action to address climate change.
- 03 - It will not agree to any international agreement that significantly limits greenhouse gas emissions.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| a) USA | c) China | e) Brazil |
| b) Europe | d) India | f) Russia |

8t Please rate each of the following actors on their efforts over the past year to address climate change.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| b) The EU | f) The Chinese government |
| e) The US government | g) The Indian government |