

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
24 September 2015

## News release

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### **Burkinabé affirm overwhelming support for democracy, reject military rule**

The overwhelming majority of Burkina Faso's citizens prefer democracy over all other forms of government and affirm that elections are the best method for choosing leaders, new Afrobarometer survey findings show.

Clear majorities also reject military rule and believe that neighbouring countries have a duty to try to guarantee free elections and prevent human rights abuses in Burkina Faso.

Based on a national survey conducted in May 2015, these findings highlight firm public support for democracy as the country pursues its political transition in the wake of a coup d'état by the presidential guard. The African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the United Nations have condemned the coup, and Leaders of other West African countries have taken an active role in mediating the crisis.

#### **Key findings**

- Four of five Burkinabé (81%) say democracy is preferable to any other form of government (Figure 1). More than nine of 10 (95%) say elections are the best method for choosing leaders (Figure 2).
- A majority of Burkinabé (59%) reject military rule as a way to govern the country, while 33% embrace military rule (Figure 3).
- Two-thirds (66%) of Burkinabé say that West African governments should help guarantee free elections and prevent human-rights abuses in neighbouring countries, including through the use of political pressure, sanctions, or military force (Figure 4).

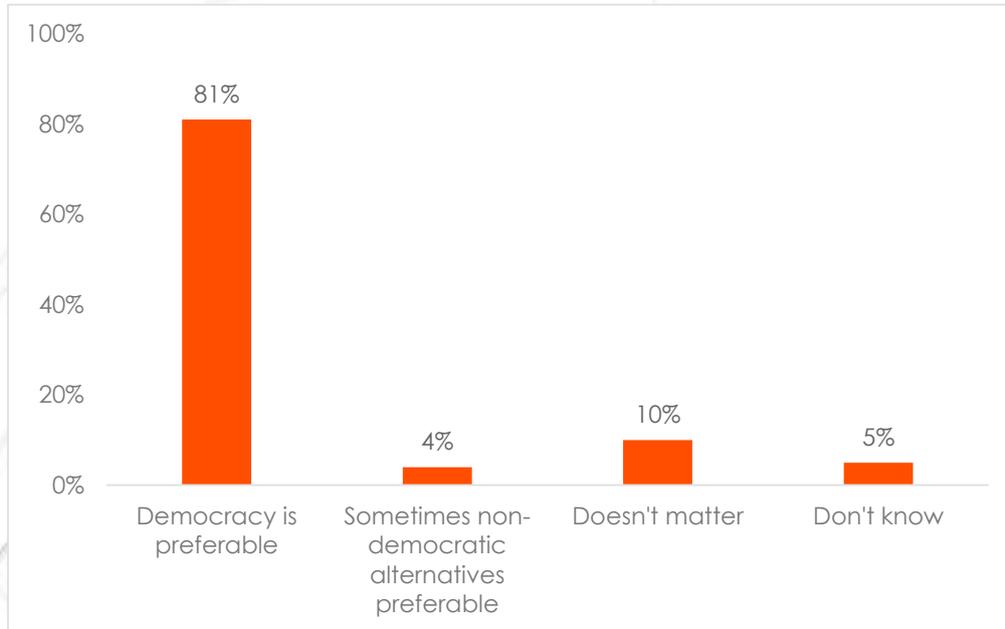
#### **Afrobarometer**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 1,200 or 2,400.

The Afrobarometer team in Burkina Faso interviewed 1,200 adult Burkinabé in May 2015. A sample of this size yields results with a country-level margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Burkina Faso in 2008 and 2012.

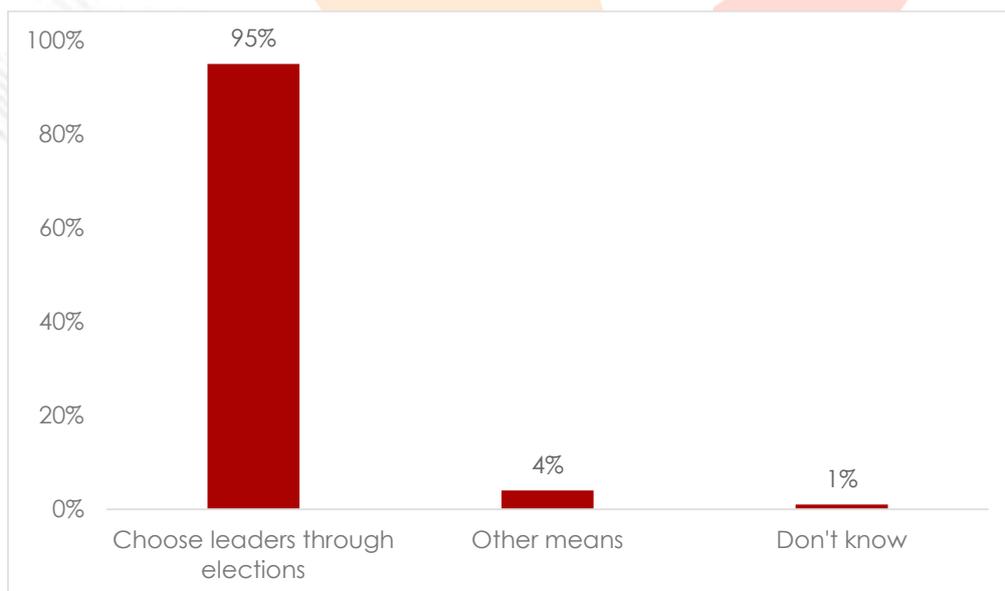
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Support for democracy** | Burkina Faso | 2015



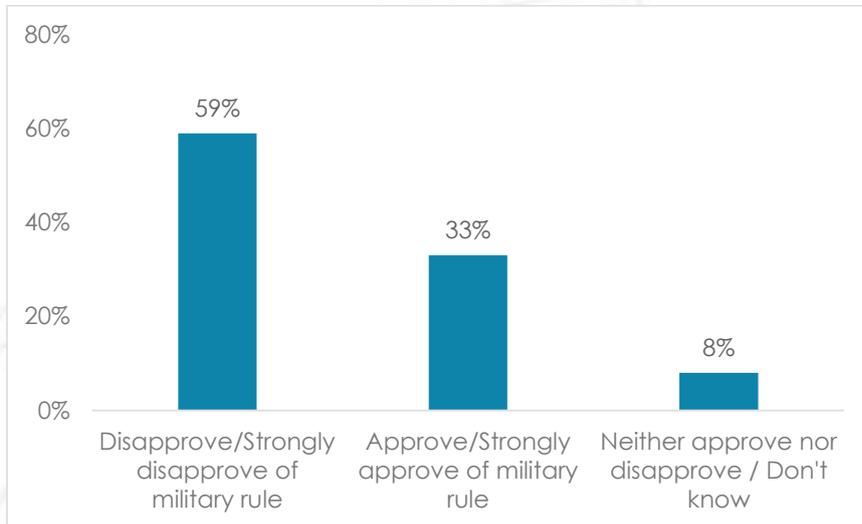
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion?  
 Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.  
 Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.  
 Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

**Figure 2: Support for elections** | Burkina Faso | 2015



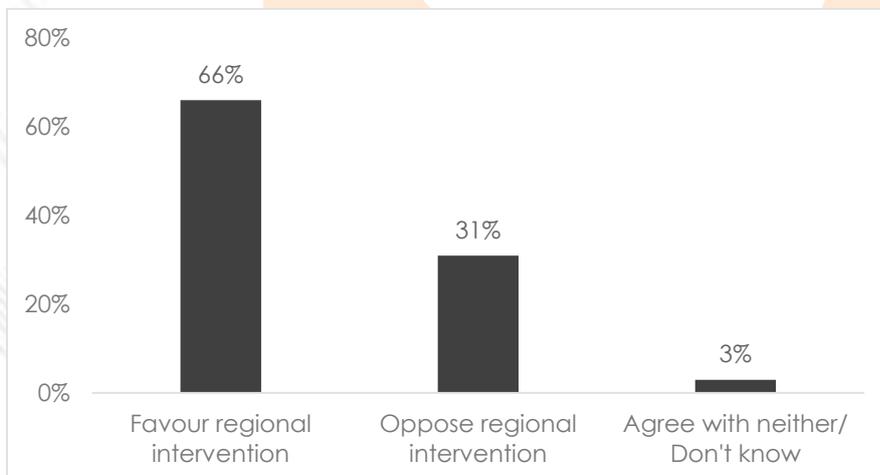
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion?  
 Statement 1: We should choose our leaders in this country through regular, open, and honest elections.  
 Statement 2: Since elections sometimes produce bad results, we should adopt other methods for choosing this country's leaders.

**Figure 3: Rejection of military rule | Burkina Faso | 2015**



**Respondents were asked:** *Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternative: The army comes in to govern the country?*

**Figure 4: Support for regional intervention | Burkina Faso | 2015**



**Respondents were asked:** *Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion?*  
 Statement 1: *The governments of each country in West Africa have a duty to try to guarantee free elections and prevent human rights abuses in other countries in the region, for example by using political pressure, economic sanctions, or military force.*  
 Statement 2: *Each country in this region should respect the independence of other countries and allow them to make their own decisions about how their country should be governed.*

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