



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
30 October 2020

## News release

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### Overwhelming majority of Ethiopians support democracy, seek accountable governance

Large majorities of Ethiopians support democracy and reject non-democratic regimes such as one-party rule, military rule, and one-man rule, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

Most Ethiopians want a government accountable to citizens, a prime minister monitored by and answerable to Parliament, and elected officials who are accountable to their constituents.

The survey also found that half of Ethiopians consider their country either a democracy with major problems or not a democracy at all. And more than half say they are not satisfied with the way democracy is working in their country.

#### Key findings

- An overwhelming majority (90%) of Ethiopians prefer democracy to any other kind of governance. Large majorities also reject non-democratic regimes: one-party rule (77%), military rule (76%), and one-man rule (84%) (Figure 1).
- Two-thirds (65%) of Ethiopians prefer a government that is accountable to its citizens over one that “gets things done” without citizen input (Figure 2).
- Seven in 10 Ethiopians (69%) want the prime minister to be answerable to Parliament (Figure 3).
- Four-fifths of respondents (79%) say elected officials should listen to constituents’ views and do what they demand (Figure 4).
- Half (50%) of Ethiopians consider their country either “a democracy with major problems” or “not a democracy at all” (Figure 5).
- A majority (54%) of Ethiopians say they are not satisfied with the way democracy is working in their country.

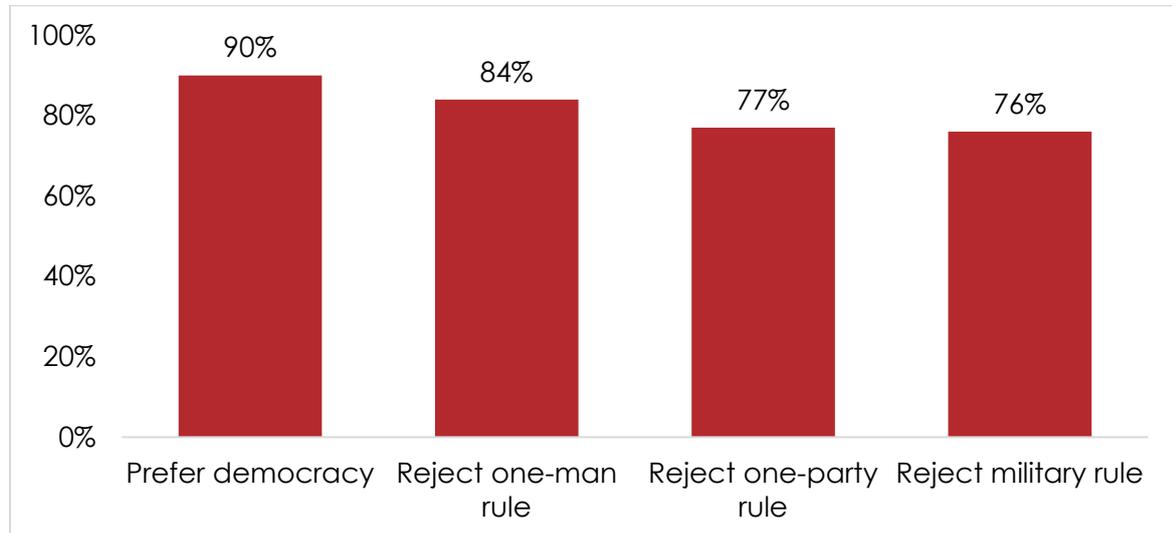
#### Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2021 are planned in at least 35 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice with nationally representative samples.

With support from Freedom House, the Afrobarometer team in Ethiopia, led by ABCON – Research & Consulting, interviewed 2,400 adult Ethiopians in December 2019 and January 2020. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. A previous survey was conducted in Ethiopia in 2013.

**Charts**

**Figure 1: How should Ethiopia be governed? | Ethiopia | 2020**



**Respondents were asked:**

Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion? (% who agree with Statement 1)

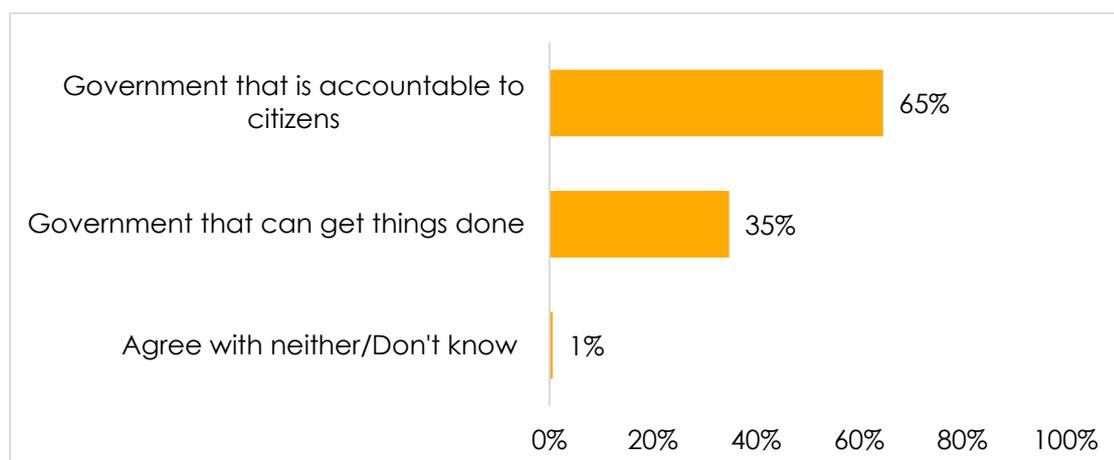
- Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.
- Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable
- Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives?

- Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office.
- The army comes in to govern the country.
- Elections and HPR/Parliament are abolished so that the prime minister comes in to govern the country.

(% who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of each alternative)

**Figure 2: Government accountability vs. efficiency | Ethiopia | 2020**



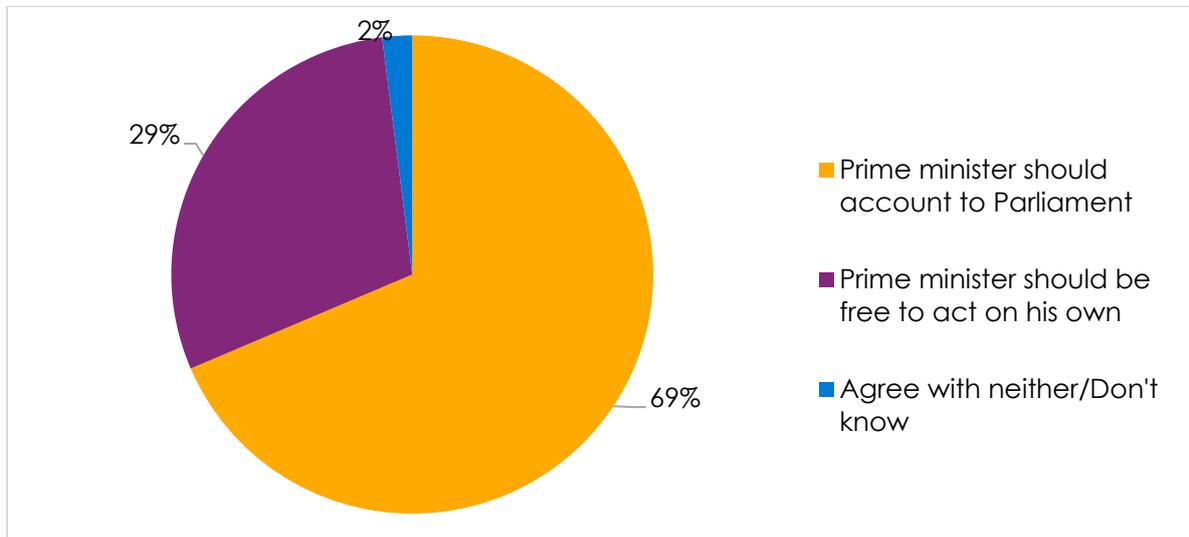
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does.

Statement 2: It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

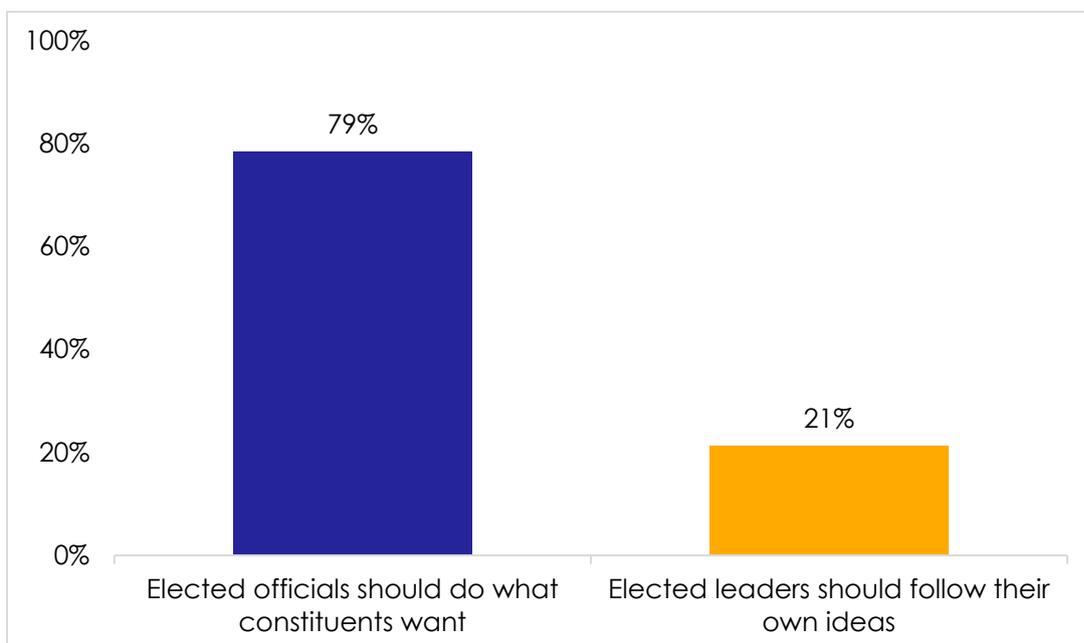
(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

**Figure 3: Prime minister should be monitored by Parliament vs. free to act on own**  
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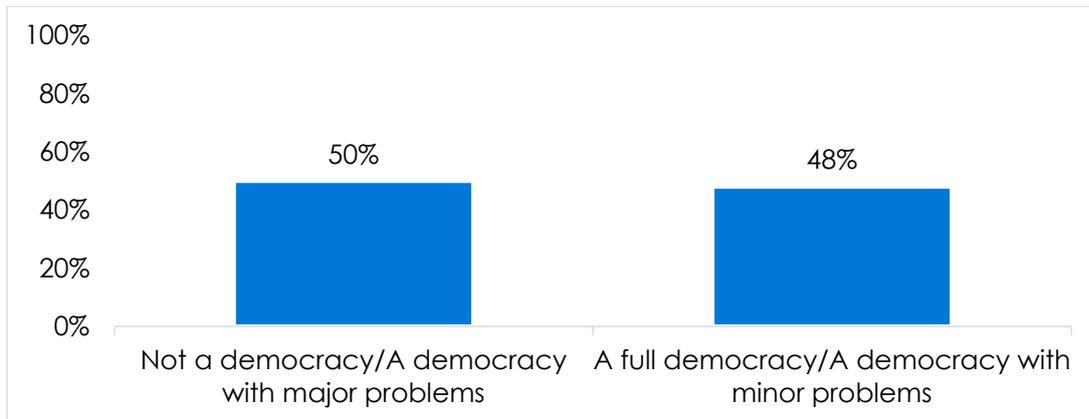
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: The House of Peoples Representative (HPR) should ensure that the prime minister explains to it on a regular basis how his government spends taxpayers' money.  
 Statement 2: The prime minister should be able to devote his full attention to developing the country rather than wasting time justifying his actions.  
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

**Figure 4: Should elected officials do what constituents want or follow their own ideas?**  
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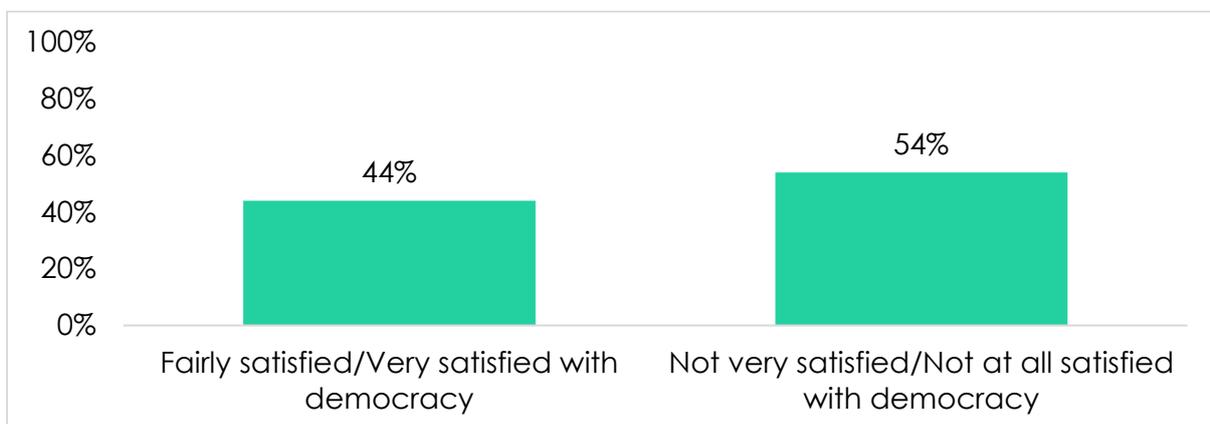
**Respondents were asked:**  
 Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: Our elected officials should listen to constituents' views and do what they demand.  
 Statement 2: Our elected leaders should follow their own ideas in deciding what is best for the country.  
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

**Figure 5: Extent of democracy | Ethiopia | 2020**



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, how much of a democracy is Ethiopia today?*

**Figure 5: Satisfaction with democracy | Ethiopia | 2020**



**Respondents were asked:** *Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Ethiopia?*

**For more information, please contact:**

Mulu Teka  
 National Investigator  
 ABCON – Research & Consulting  
 Tel +251 973 077 414, +251 115 531 470, +251 115 521 696, +251 115 537 061  
[mulu.mtg@gmail.com](mailto:mulu.mtg@gmail.com) / [info@abconltd.et](mailto:info@abconltd.et)  
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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