



Casablanca, Morocco  
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## News release

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### **Moroccans welcome open trade, see U.S. as best model for development, Afrobarometer survey shows**

Moroccans welcome open trade and see the United States as the best model for the country's development, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

Large majorities say that in order to develop, Morocco must trade with other countries and allow foreign businesses to operate in their country instead of protecting domestic producers from competition.

They are divided as to whether the country should fund national development through its own resources or rely on foreign loans.

#### **Key findings**

- Two-thirds (65%) of Moroccans say the country must rely on trade with the rest of the world in order to develop, including by opening its borders to foreign imports (Figure 1).
- Seven in 10 Moroccans (70%) want the government to continue to permit foreigners and foreign corporations to set up retail shops in the country to ensure that citizens have a wide choice of low-cost consumer goods (Figure 2).
- The United States is the most popular model for the future development of Morocco, cited by 50% of respondents – three times as many as prefer France and China (16% each) (Figure 3).
- Half (50%) of Moroccans say the country should finance its development from its own resources, even if it means that citizens pay more taxes, while 43% would instead use external loans (Figure 4).

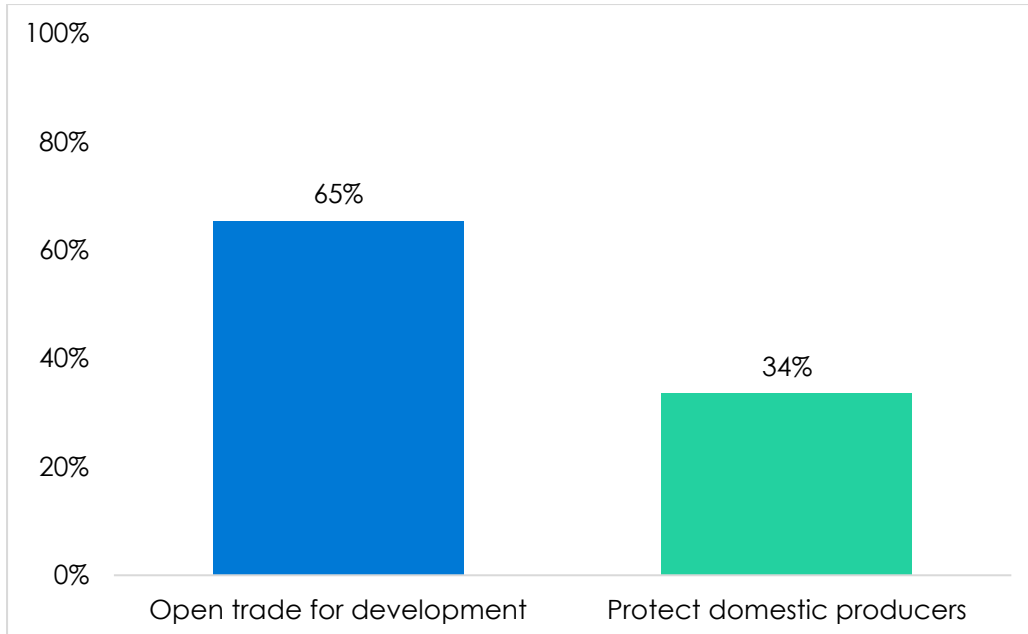
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on Africans' experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2021 cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Morocco, led by Global for Survey and Consulting (GSC), interviewed 1,200 adult Moroccans in February 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Morocco in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

**Charts**

**Figure 1: Open trade vs. protection of local producers | Morocco | 2021**

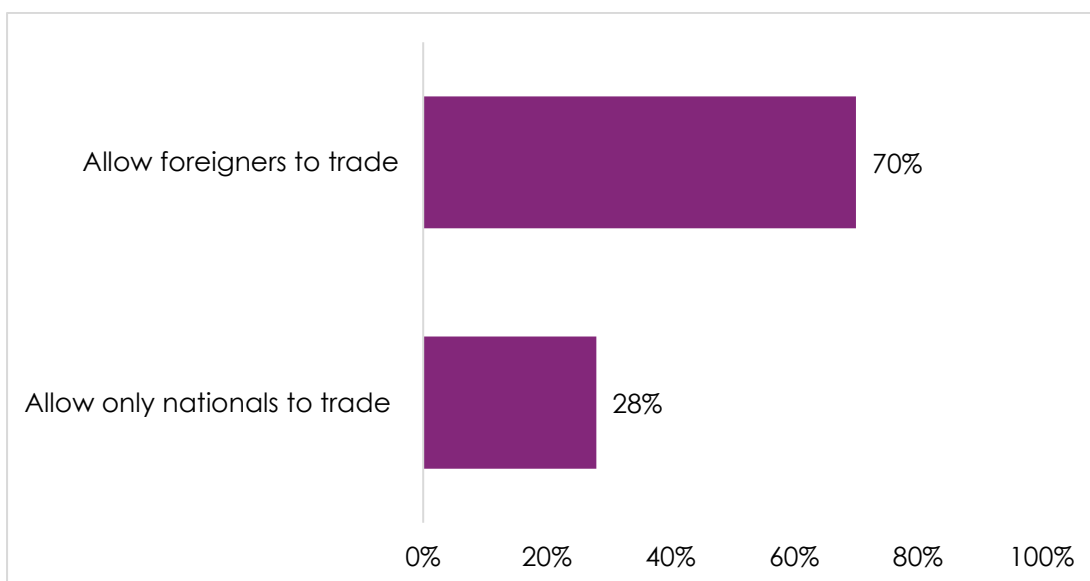


**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? (% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with each statement)

Statement 1: In order to develop, our country must rely on trade with the rest of the world, including by opening our borders to foreign imports.

Statement 2: In order to develop, our country must rely on local production and protect local producers from foreign competition.

**Figure 2: Restrict trading in consumer goods to nationals or allow foreigners to trade? | Morocco | 2021**

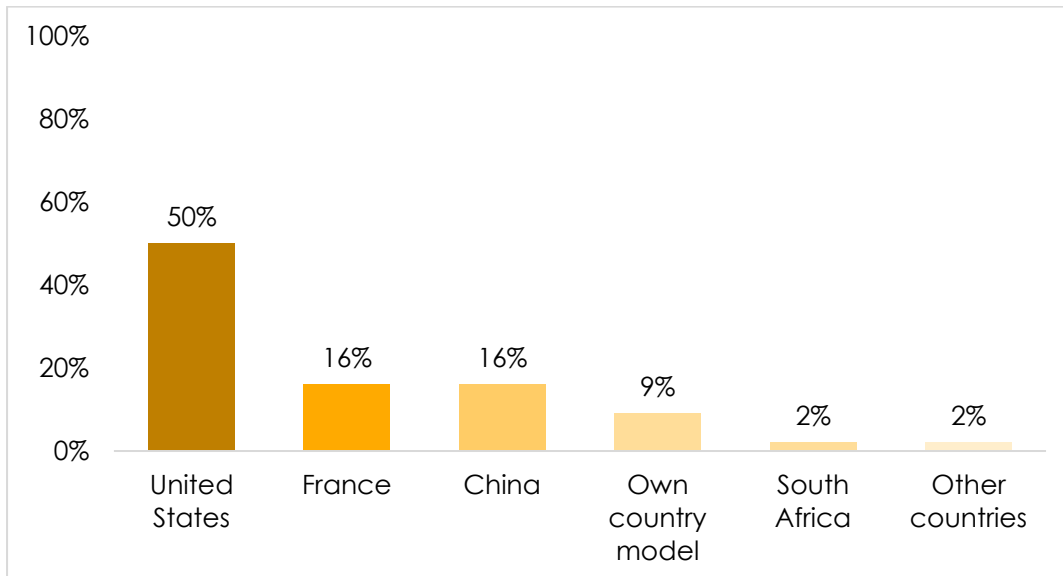


**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? (% who “agree” or “agree very strongly” with each statement)

Statement 1: The government should only allow citizens and companies of our own country to trade in consumer goods, even if this means we will have fewer goods or higher prices.

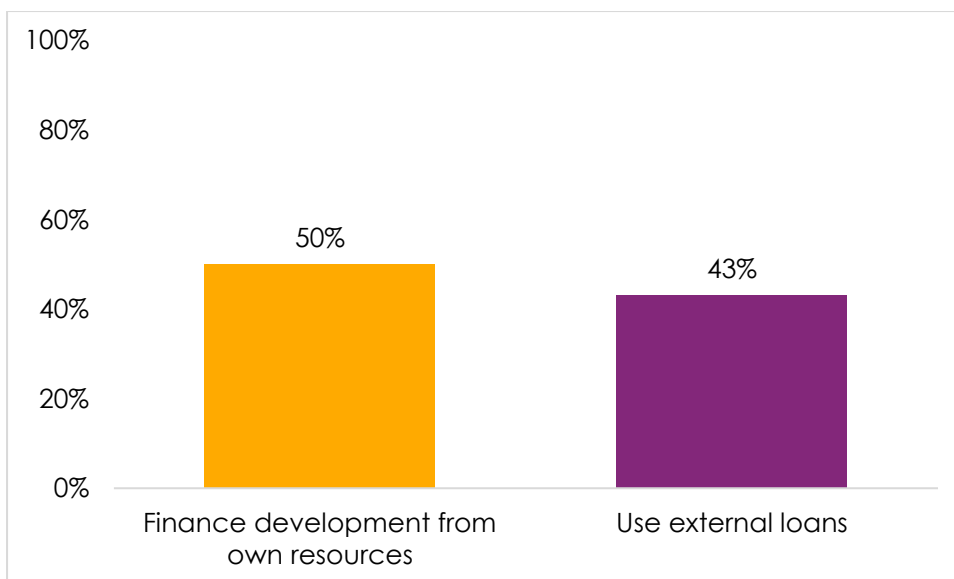
Statement 2: The government should continue to permit foreigners and foreign corporations to set up retail shops in this country to ensure we have a wide choice of low-cost consumer goods.

**Figure 3: Best model for future development | Morocco | 2021**



**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country, or is there some other country, in Africa or elsewhere, that should be our model?

**Figure 4: Finance national development from own resources vs. use external loans | Morocco | 2021**



**Respondents were asked:** Which of these statements is closest to your views? (% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with each statement)

Statement 1: It is important that as an independent nation, we finance development from our own resources, even if it means paying more taxes.

*Statement 2: We should use external loans for the development of the country, even if it increases our indebtedness to foreign countries and institutions.*

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