

Port-Louis, Mauritius  
9 June 2022

## News release

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### **Mauritians' satisfaction with democracy reaches new low, Afrobarometer study shows**

Mauritians' satisfaction with the way democracy works in the country has declined sharply over the past decade, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

A large majority of citizens still say democracy is preferable to any other kind of political system, but the proportion of citizens who share this opinion is declining.

More than half of Mauritians say it's good for a democracy if power changes hands via elections from time to time.

#### **Key findings**

- More than seven in 10 Mauritians (71%) say democracy is preferable to any other political system of governance, although that proportion represents a 14-percentage-point decline since 2012 (85%) (Figure 1).
- Only one-third of respondents (32%) say they are "fairly satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the way democracy is working in the country, a 40-percentage-point drop from 72% in 2012 (Figure 2).
  - Frustration with the functioning of the country's democracy is particularly high among urban residents, men, young citizens, those with at least a secondary education, and those experiencing some level of lived poverty (Figure 3).
- Almost half (49%) of citizens describe the country as "not a democracy" or "a democracy with major problems," a 29-percentage-point increase since 2012 (Figure 4).
- A majority (59%) of respondents say that it is better in a democracy if power sometimes changes hands in elections from one political party to another (Figure 5).

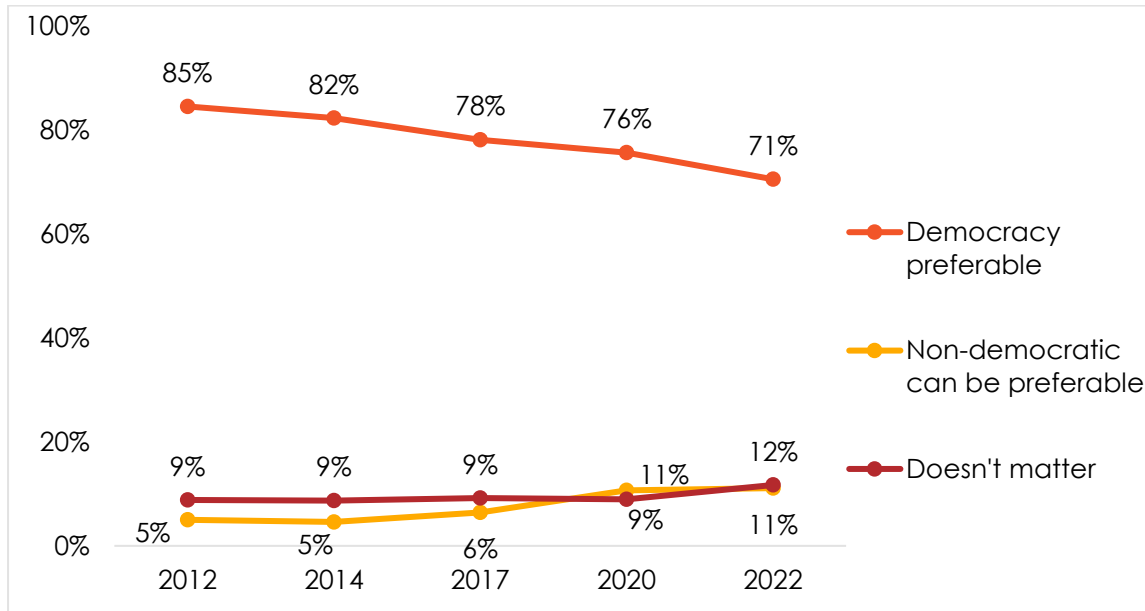
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Mauritius, led by StraConsult Ltd., interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Mauritians in March 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Mauritius in 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2020.

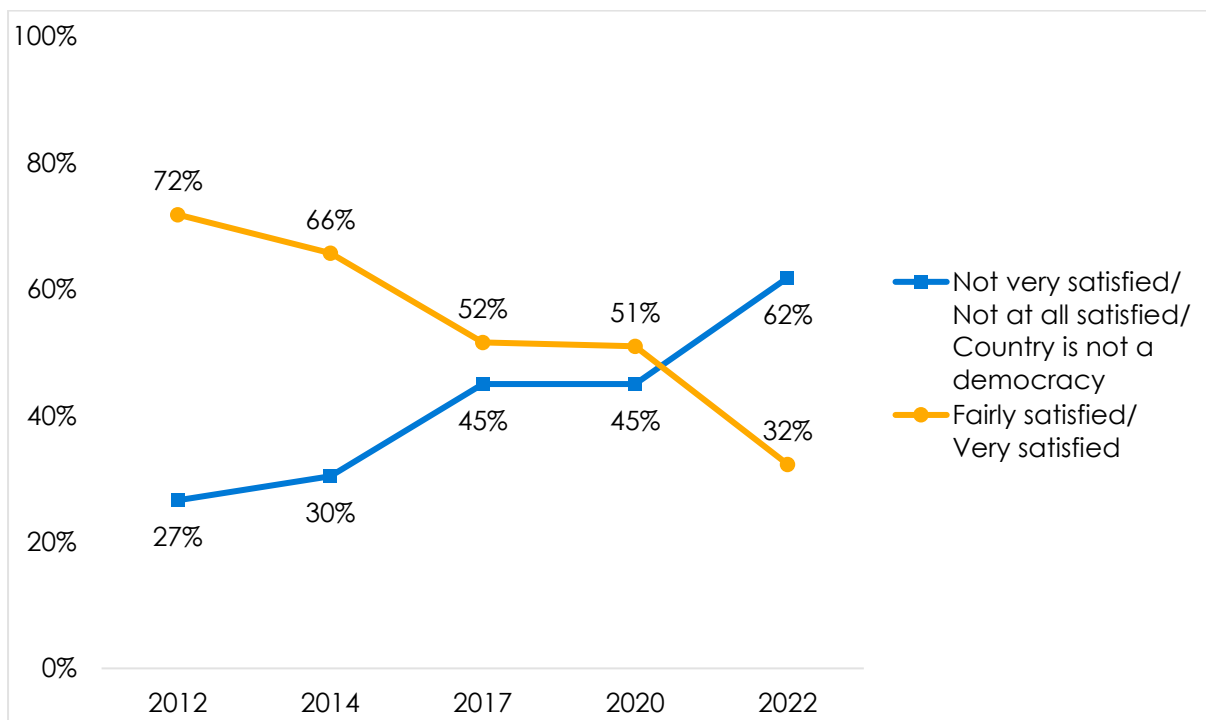
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Support for democracy | Mauritius | 2012-2022**



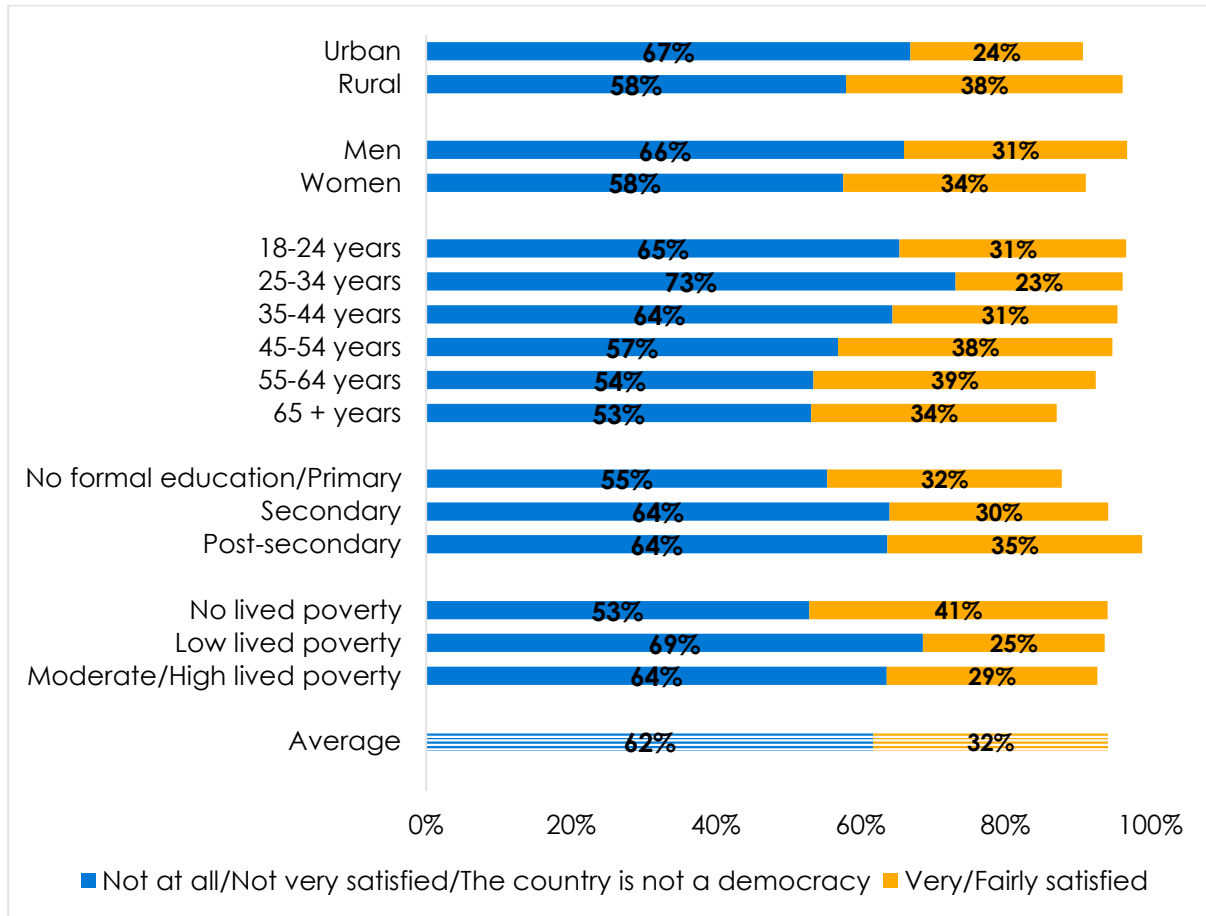
**Respondents were asked:** Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?  
 Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.  
 Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.  
 Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter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

**Figure 2: Satisfaction with democracy | Mauritius | 2012-2022**



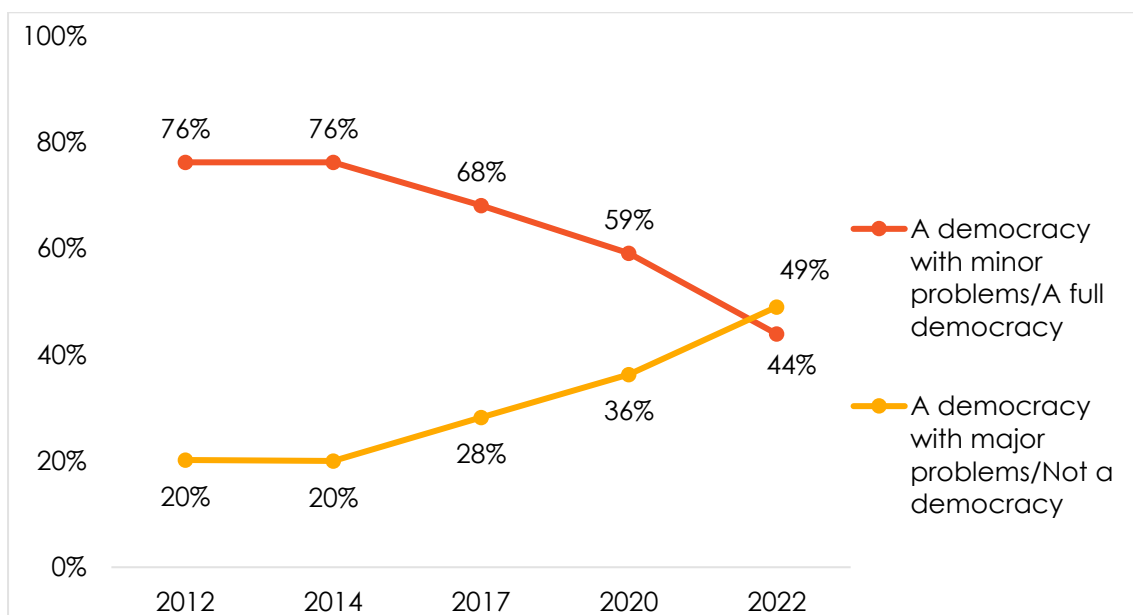
**Respondents were asked:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Mauritius?

**Figure 3: Satisfaction with democracy** | by demographic group | Mauritius | 2022



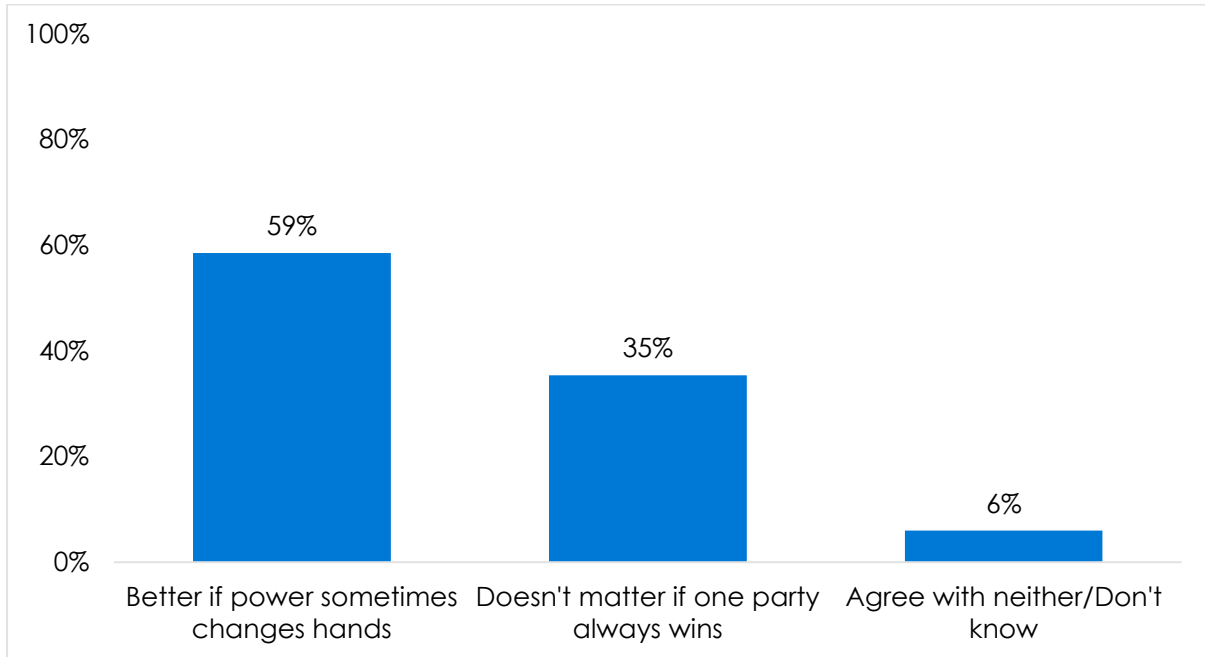
**Respondents were asked:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Mauritius?

**Figure 4: Extent of democracy** | Mauritius | 2012-2022



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

**Figure 5: Political party turnover** | Mauritius | 2022



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: In a democracy, it is better if power sometimes changes hands in elections from one political party to another.  
 Statement 2: In a democracy, as long as a government is elected by the people in a free and fair election, it doesn't matter if one party always wins and continuously governs the country.  
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

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