

Khartoum, Sudan
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News release

Majority of Sudanese reject non-democratic regimes but are dissatisfied with the way democracy is working

A majority of Sudanese reject one-party rule and other non-democratic regimes, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows. But they are also dissatisfied with the way their democracy is working.

Findings from the national survey in late 2022 show that more than half of Sudanese prefer democracy to any other form of government and reject one-party and one-man rule. Half are opposed to military rule, while 43% approve of government by the military.

But most citizens are also dissatisfied with the way democracy is working in the country. Few think the country has become more democratic over the past five years, or expect it to become more democratic in five years' time.

Key findings

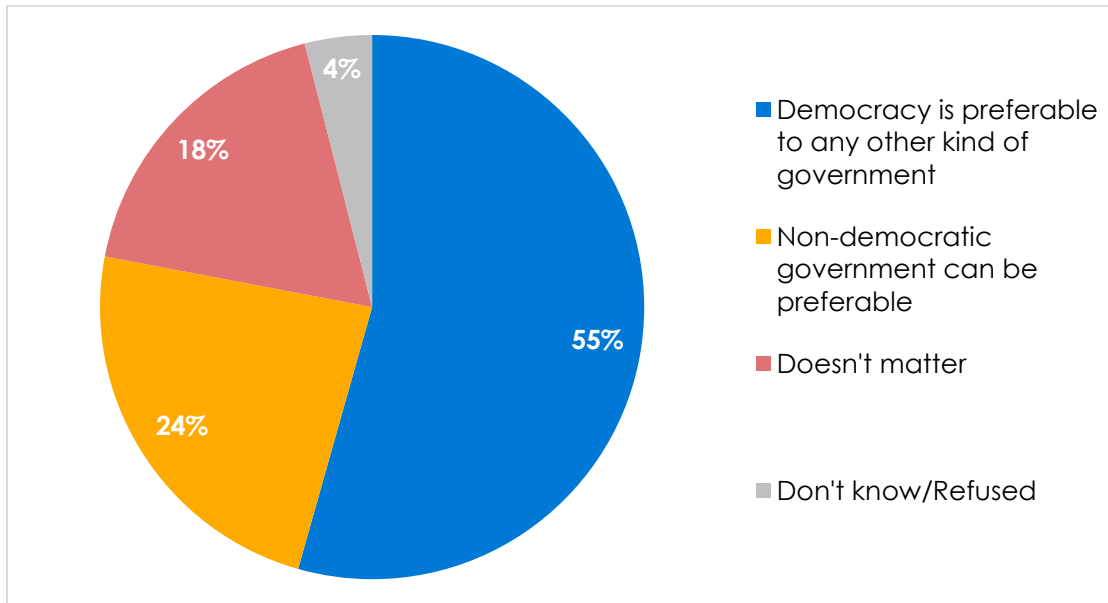
- More than half (55%) of Sudanese prefer democracy to any other form of government (Figure 1).
- Seven in 10 (70%) reject one-party rule, but opposition to military rule (50%) and one-man rule (57%) is considerably weaker (Figure 2).
- Only two in 10 (22%) consider Sudan "a full democracy" or "a democracy with minor problems" (Figure 3).
 - And six in 10 (62%) say they are not satisfied with the way democracy is working in the country (Figure 4).
 - Only two in 10 citizens (20%) believe that the country has become more democratic over the past five years (Figure 5).
 - And only 30% are optimistic that the country will be more democratic in five years' time.

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. Eight rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys are being completed in early 2023. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

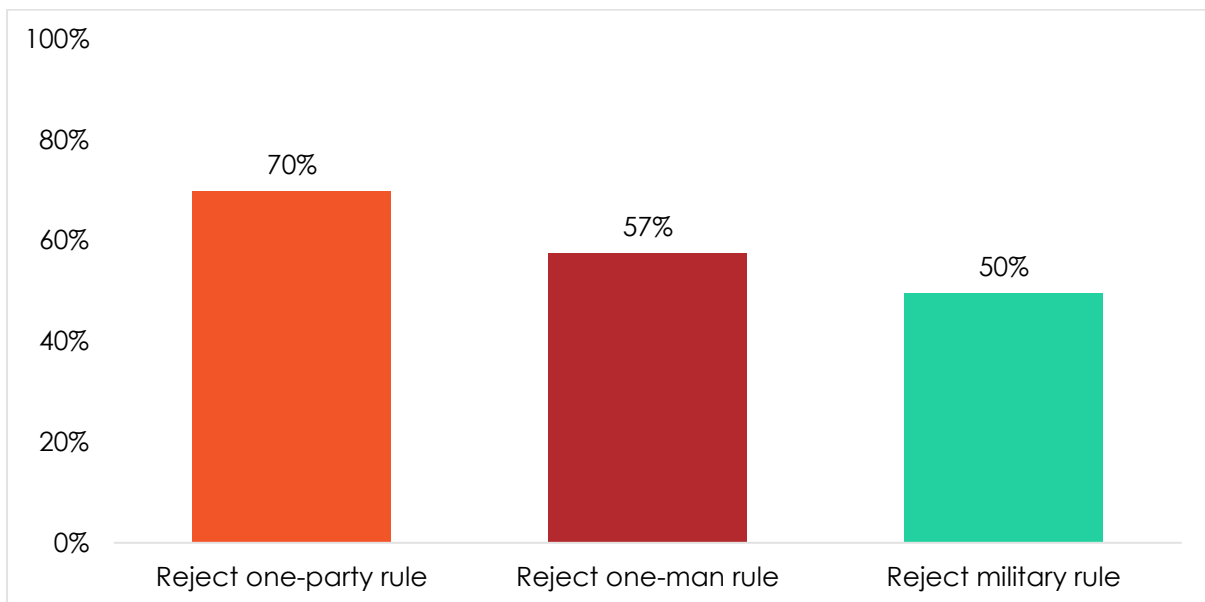
The Afrobarometer team in Sudan, led by Sudan Polling Statistics Center (SPSC), interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adults in November–December 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Sudan in 2013, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

Figure 1: Support for democracy | Sudan | 2022



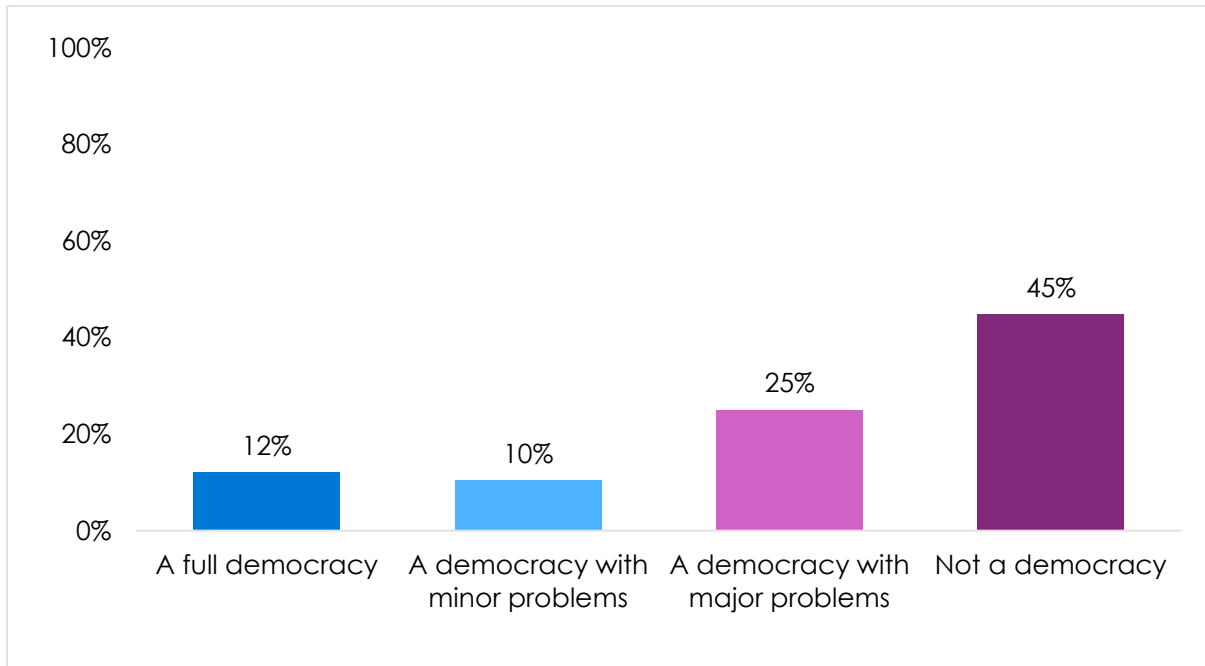
Respondents were asked: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?
 Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.
 Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.
 Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what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

Figure 2: Rejection of non-democratic alternatives | Sudan | 2022



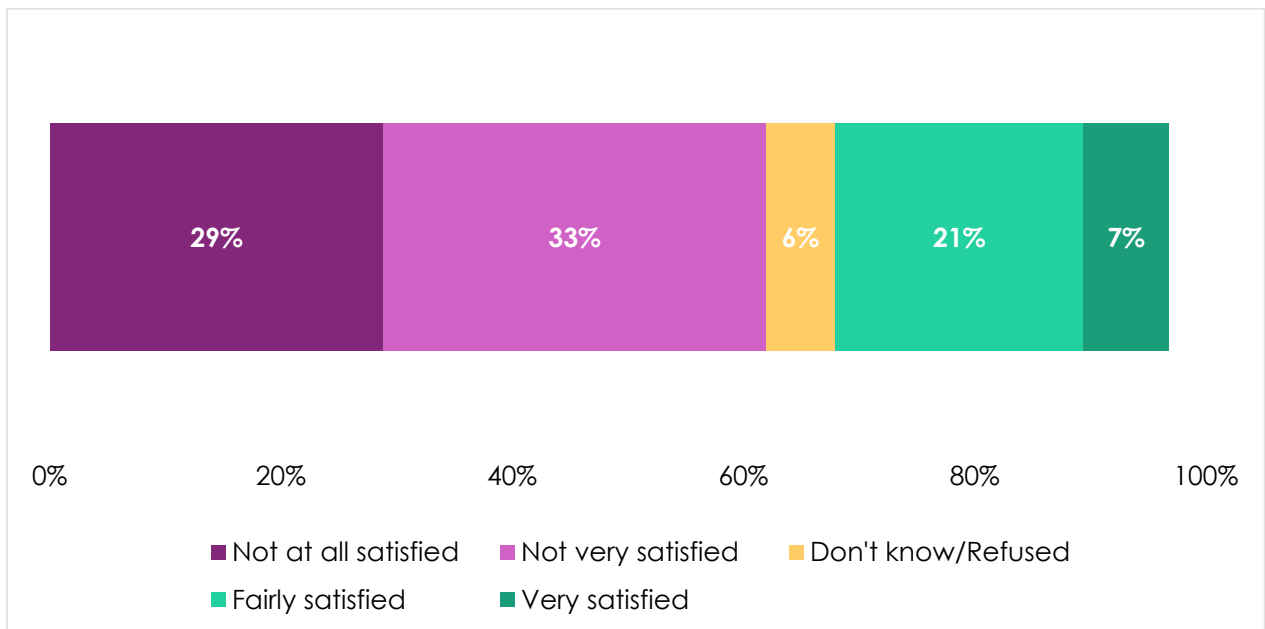
Respondents were asked: There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives?
 Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office.
 The army comes in to govern the country.
 Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the president can decide everything.
 (% who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove")

Figure 3: Extent of democracy | Sudan | 2022



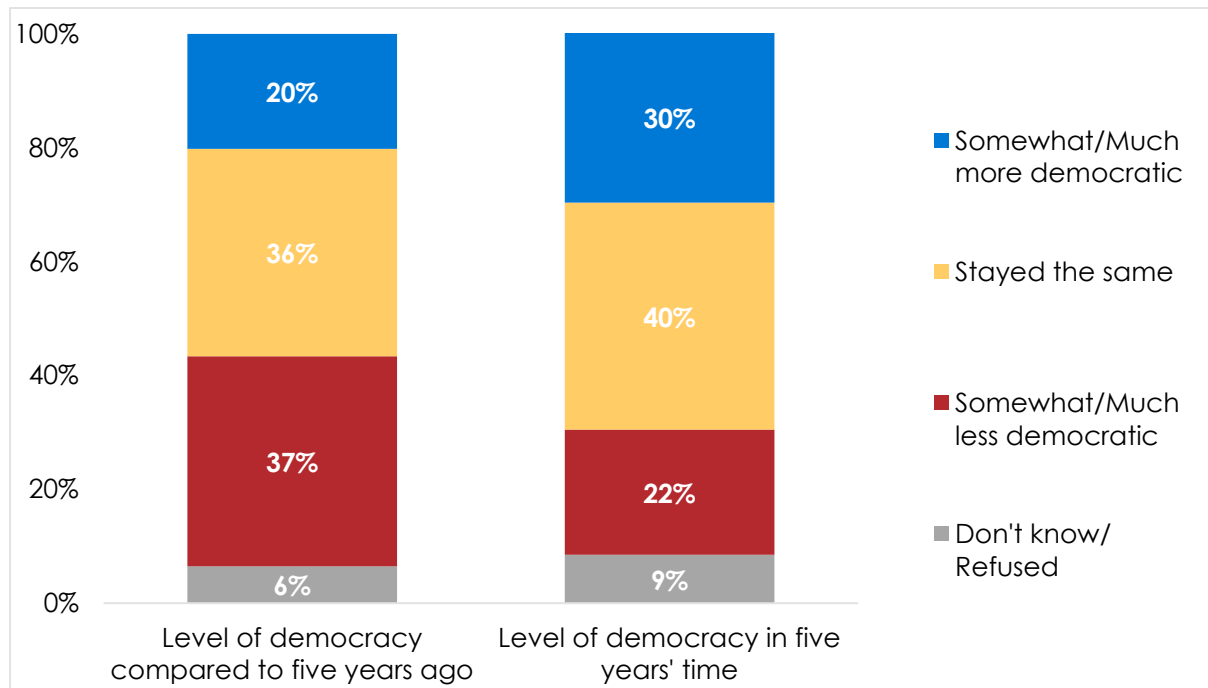
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how much of a democracy is Sudan today?*

Figure 4: Satisfaction with democracy | Sudan | 2022



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

Figure 5: Past and future level of democracy | Sudan | 2022



Respondents were asked: Do you think that this country is more democratic, less democratic or about the same than it was five years ago? Do you think that in five years' time this country will be more democratic than it is now, less democratic, or about the same?

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