



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Kampala, Uganda  
5 July 2024

## News release

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### **Ugandans rank high in commitment to democracy, but are far less satisfied with how democracy works in their country, study shows**

Ugandans rank high among Africans in their commitment to democracy, but fewer than half of them say they are getting the democracy they want, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

A majority of Ugandans express full commitment to democracy, meaning they prefer democracy over any other political system and reject dictatorship, one-party rule, and military rule. Since 2012, this commitment has ranged from 42% to 63%, registering fluctuations around election years.

Perceptions of a full supply of democracy – meaning respondents see their country as a functioning democracy and are satisfied with its workings – have generally been lower, despite a significant rebound in 2024.

#### **Key findings**

- A majority (54%) of Ugandans indicate full commitment to democracy. Commitment to democracy appears to rise and fall around election years, ranging from a low of 42% in 2015 to 63% in 2012 (Figure 1).
  - Perceived full supply of democracy is generally lower than commitment to democracy. It declined to 34% in 2022 but has climbed to 43% in 2024.
- The perception of a full supply of democracy is lower among urban (35%) and educated citizens (36%-38% of those with secondary or post-secondary education), compared to rural (47%) and less educated citizens (47%-53%). But it also decreases as individuals' level of education rises (Figure 2).
- Across 39 African countries surveyed in 2021/2023, commitment to democracy varied from 7% in Mali to 69% in Zambia, with Uganda claiming second place with 62% (before declining to 54% in the 2024 survey) (Figure 3).
- Perceptions of a full supply of democracy ranged from just 5% in Gabon to 74% in Tanzania (Figure 4).

#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

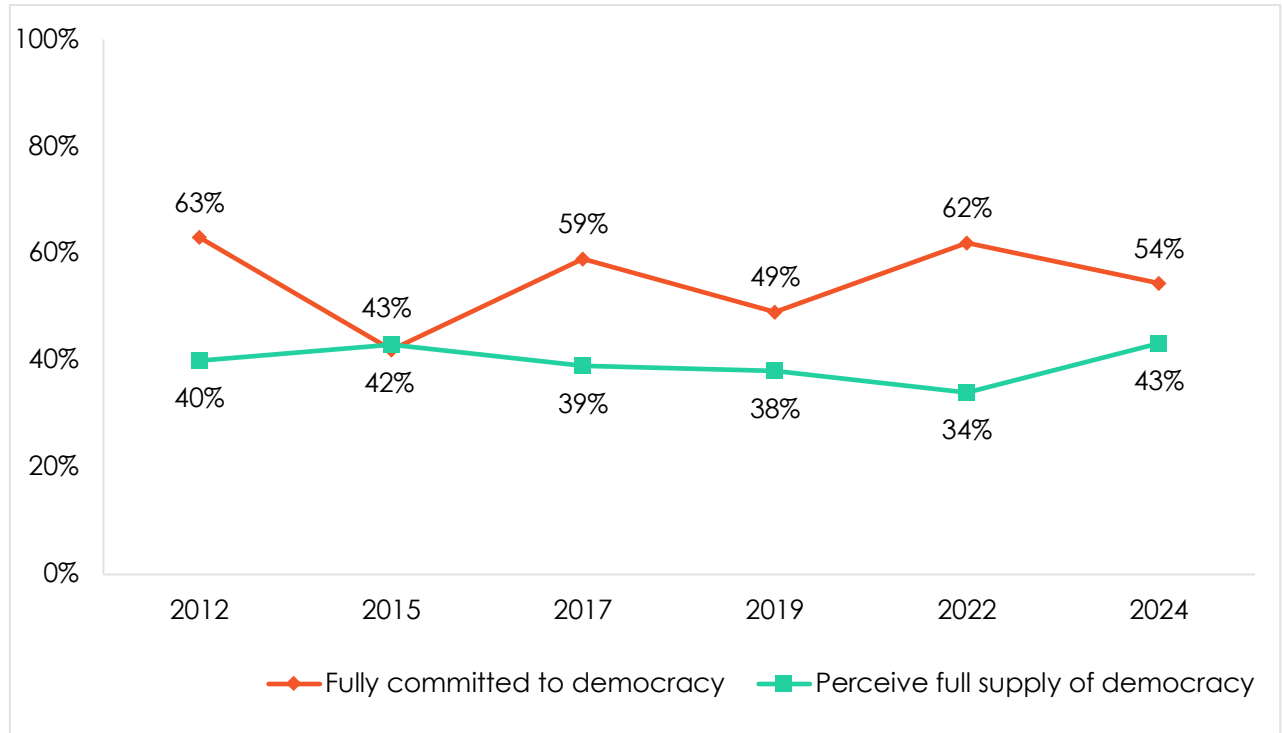
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult limited, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Ugandans in January 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

Previous standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2022.

**Charts**

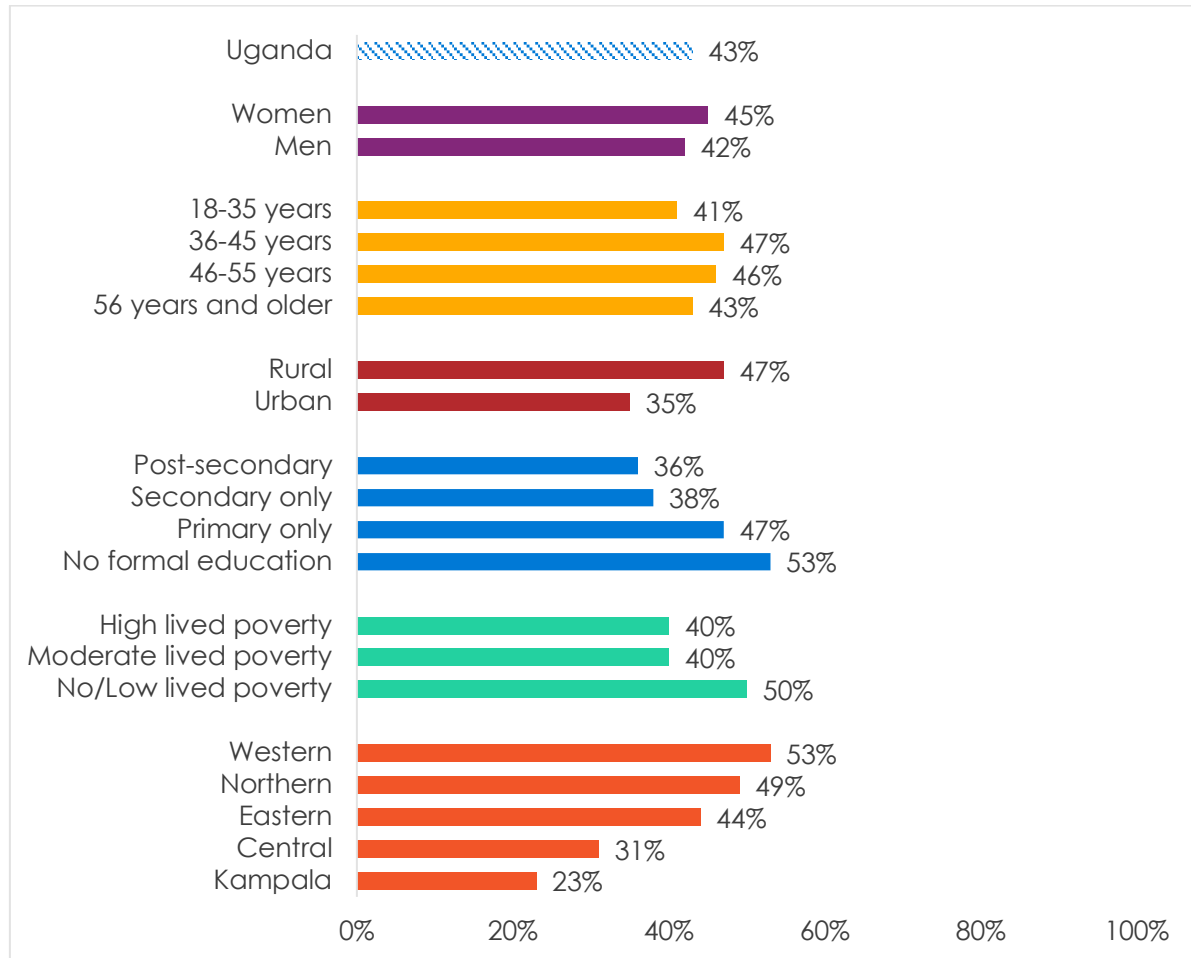
**Figure 1: Commitment to democracy and its perceived full supply | Uganda**  
 | 2012-2024



**Fully committed to democracy:** % who support democracy and reject dictatorship, one-party rule, and military rule

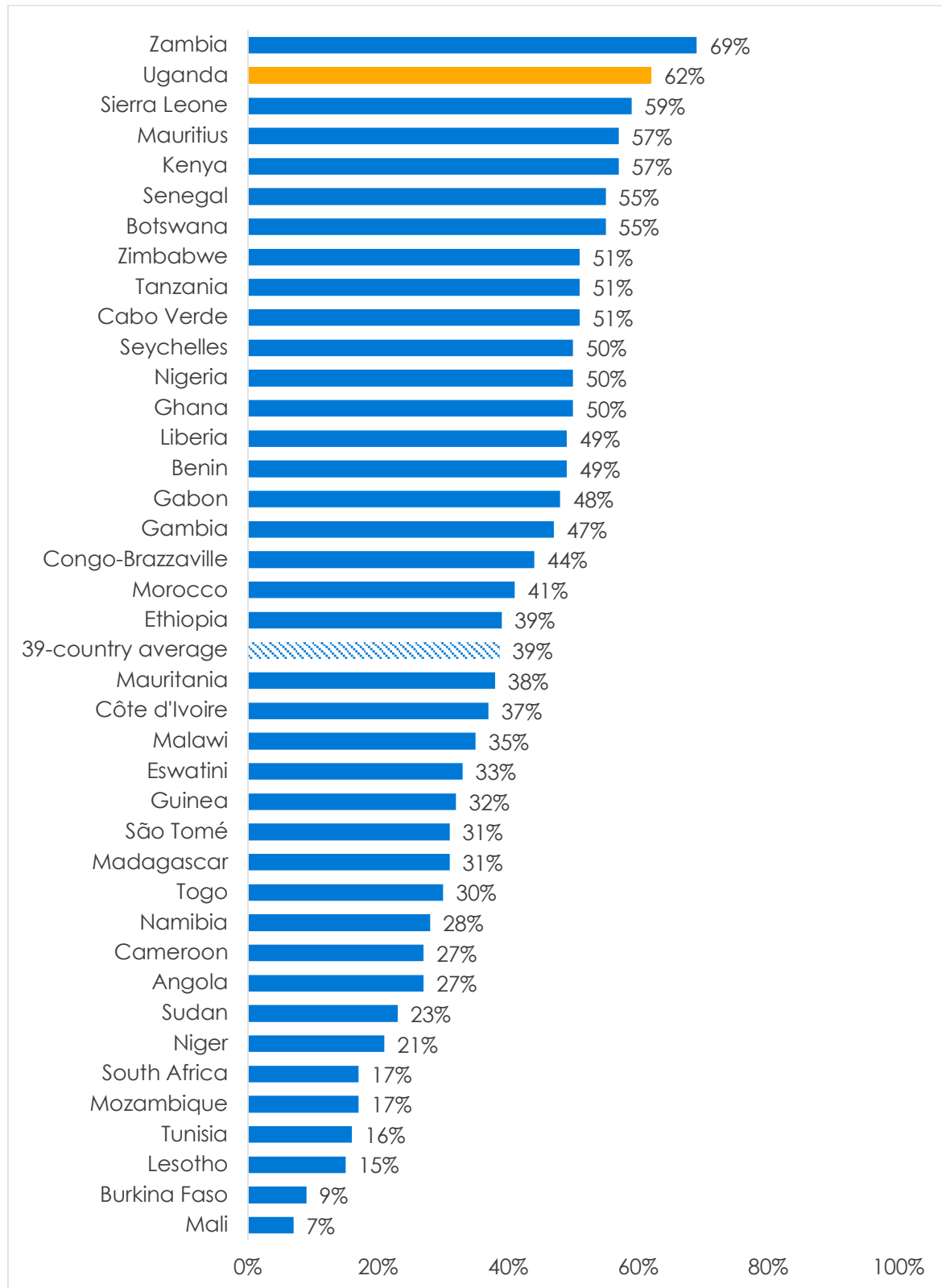
**Perceive full supply of democracy:** % who describe their country as “a full democracy” or “a democracy with minor problems” and are “fairly satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the way democracy works

**Figure 2: Perceived full supply of democracy** | by demographic group | Uganda  
 | 2024



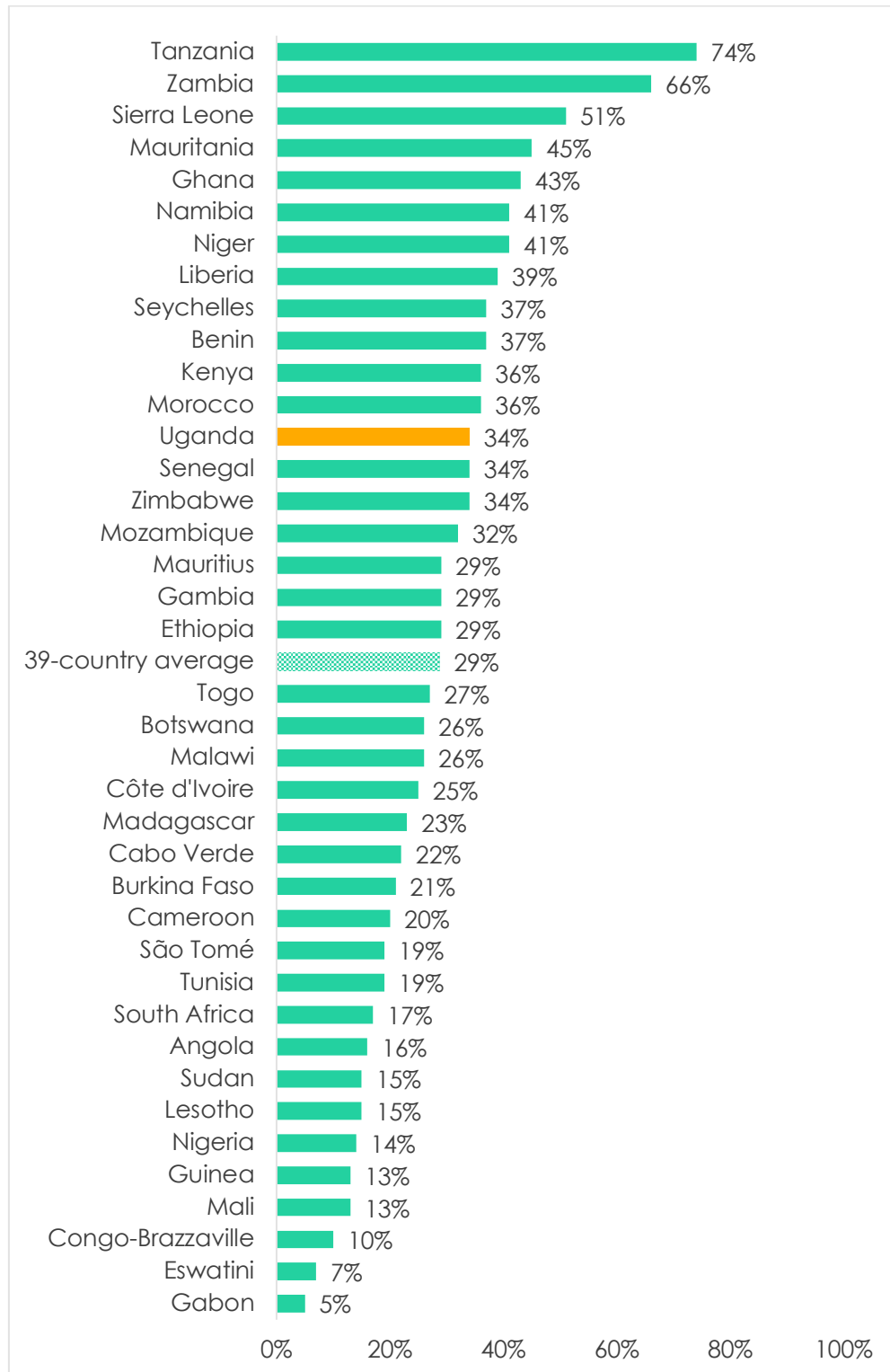
**Perceive full supply of democracy:** % who describe their country as “a full democracy” or “a democracy with minor problems” and are “fairly satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the way democracy works

**Figure 3: Commitment to democracy** | 39 African countries | 2021/2023



**Fully committed to democracy:** % who support democracy and reject dictatorship, one-party rule, and military rule

**Figure 4: Perceived full supply** | 39 African countries | 2021/2023



**Perceive full supply of democracy:** % who describe their country as “a full democracy” or “a democracy with minor problems” and are “fairly satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the way democracy works

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