



Harare, Zimbabwe  
26 July 2021



## News release

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### **Most Zimbabweans endorse an inclusive national dialogue, but support for POLAD framework is much weaker**

A new Afrobarometer survey shows that most Zimbabweans think that the national dialogue process should go beyond political parties and include participation by other stakeholders, including businesses, churches, and civil society.

But only about one in four citizens endorse the Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD) framework as the only viable option for bringing stability and development to Zimbabwe, while almost half of citizens do not offer an opinion on the POLAD framework.

#### **Key findings**

- Almost three-fourths (73%) of citizens say the national dialogue process in Zimbabwe should go beyond political parties to include other stakeholders, such as businesses, churches, and civil society organizations (Figure 1).
- The call for an inclusive national dialogue process is more prevalent among rural residents (76%) than urbanites (68%) and among men (78%) than women (68%). It is also more common among MDC-Chamisa supporters (85%) than among ZANU-PF adherent (67%) (Figure 2).
- About one in four citizens (28%) say that the ongoing POLAD framework is the only option for bringing about national stability and development in Zimbabwe. Almost as many (23%) disagree with this assertion, while almost half (47%) neither agree nor disagree, "don't know," or refused to answer the question (Figure 3).
- Among those who offer an opinion on POLAD, citizens with post-secondary education are least likely to see it as the only option (42%, compared to 60% among those with primary schooling or no formal education). This view is dominant in Harare (70%) but far less common in Mashonaland Central (31%) and West (35%) (Figure 4).

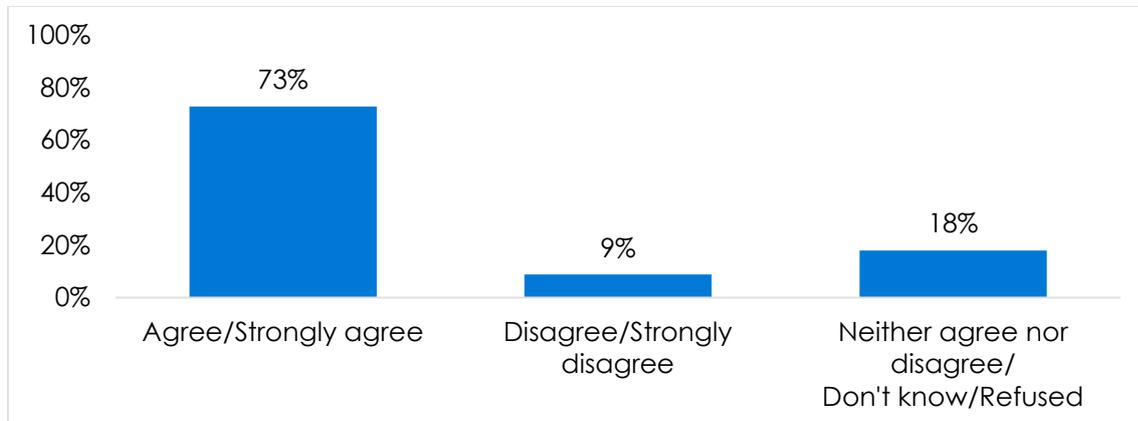
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

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. Seven rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Zimbabwe, led by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), interviewed 1,200 adult citizens of Zimbabwe in April 2021. A statistically representative sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

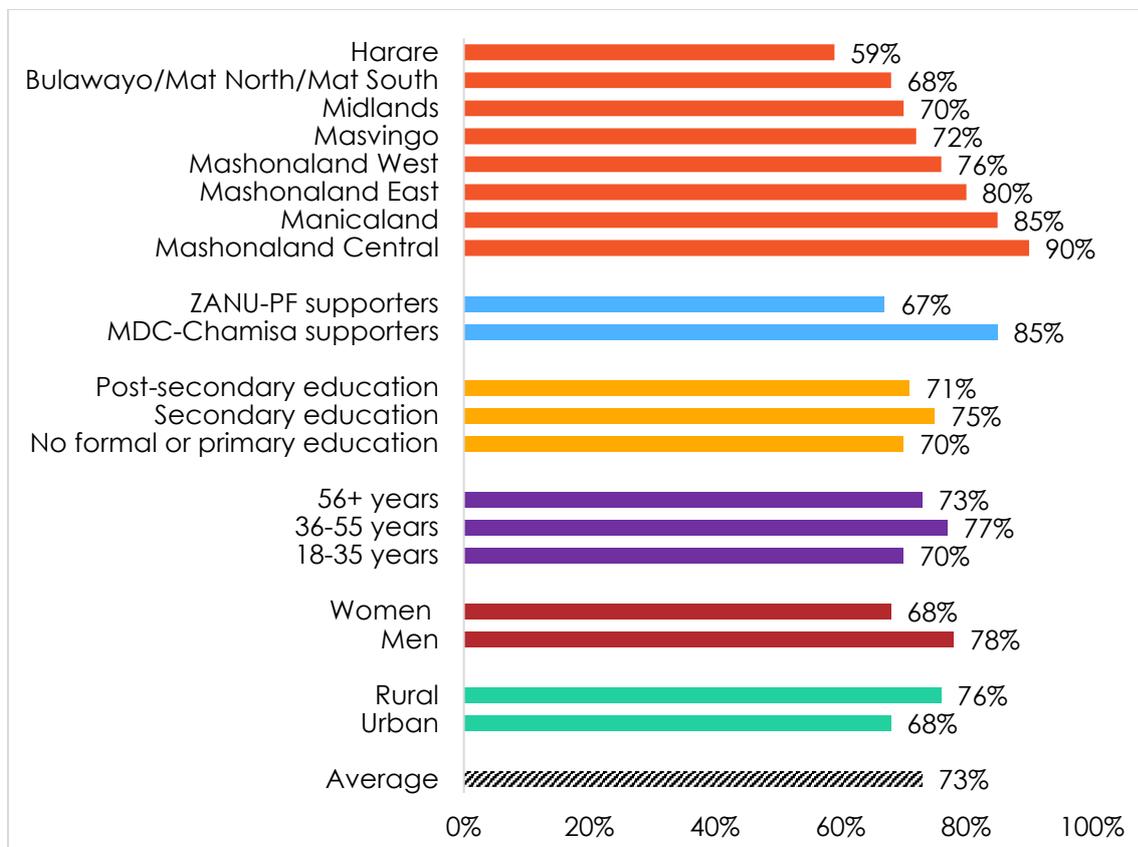
**Charts**

**Figure 1 : Support for inclusive national dialogue | Zimbabwe | 2021**



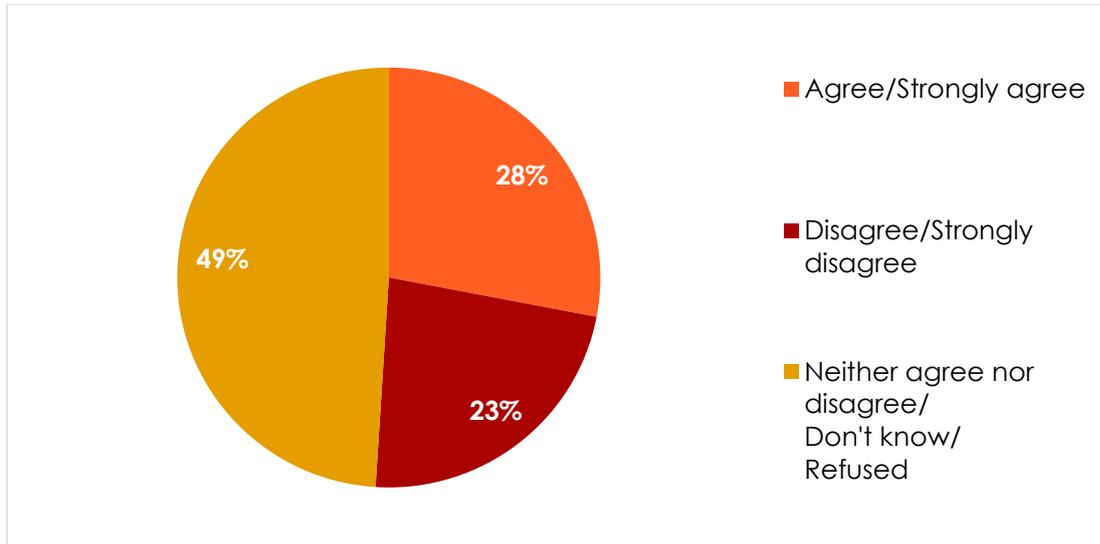
**Respondents were asked:** For the following statement, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say: The national dialogue process in Zimbabwe should go beyond political parties and include the participation of other stakeholders, including businesses, churches, and civil society.

**Figure 2: Support for inclusive national dialogue | by demographic group | Zimbabwe | 2021**



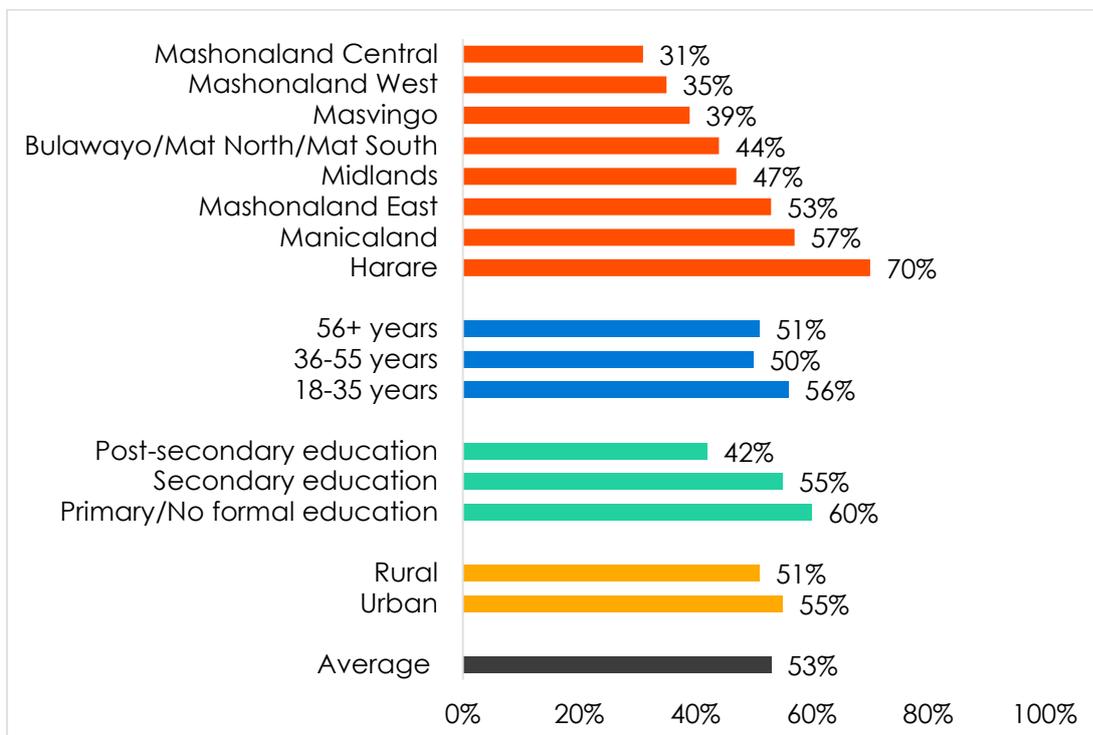
**Respondents were asked:** For the following statement, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say: The national dialogue process in Zimbabwe should go beyond political parties and include the participation of other stakeholders, including businesses, churches, and civil society. (% who "agree" or "strongly agree")

**Figure 3 : Is Political Actors Dialogue the only hope for stability and development?**  
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**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say: The ongoing Political Actors Dialogue (or POLAD) framework is the only option to bring about national stability and development in Zimbabwe?

**Figure 4: POLAD is only option to bring stability and development** | Zimbabwe | 2021



**Respondents were asked:** The ongoing Political Actors Dialogue, or, POLAD framework is the only option to bring about national stability and development in Zimbabwe. (% who "agree" or "strongly agree")  
 (Note: Respondents who said they "don't know" whether the POLAD framework is the only option to bring about national stability and development in Zimbabwe are excluded)

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