**People support global climate policy, global redistribution, and foreign aid, research shows**

**Even though the topic seems to have slipped down the political agenda, comprehensive measures to combat global warming and poverty enjoy widespread public support around the world. A study co-authored by the CNRS and published in the renowned journal Nature Human Behaviour now takes a scientific look at the acceptance of global policies. The research team draws on surveys that it initiated around the globe specifically for this purpose. It shows that there is strong and genuine support for international carbon pricing, per capita reimbursement of revenues, and thus redistribution to poorer countries. There is also strong support for foreign aid or for a global tax on millionaires that would finance low-income countries.**

“This study is not about current sentiment, but about deep-seated attitudes,” explains lead author Adrien Fabre, researcher at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and at the International Research Center on Environment and Development (CIRED). “That’s why we test the robustness of questionnaire responses by a wide variety of methods – in other words, we check whether they will hold up over time. We were pleasantly surprised by the results. Politicians should not be too afraid of citizens when pushing ahead with global solidarity and climate protection.”  
  
The encouraging findings are based on two scientifically rigorous representative surveys conducted in 2021 and 2023: the first among around 41,000 people in 20 countries accounting for almost three-quarters of all carbon emissions, and the second among 8,000 people in the US and the EU. The 20-country survey shows support for climate policy at the global level, ranging from 70 percent (US) to 94 percent (Japan). And there is similarly high support, in principle, for an ambitious global carbon pricing scheme, in which the remaining global emissions budget (in line with the 2-degree limit) is divided according to population, with countries receiving emission rights that they can trade.  
  
**List experiment and conjoint analyses**  
  
A finding from the US–EU survey goes even further: the questionnaire specified a concrete timeline for pricing, with 90 dollars per tonne of CO₂ in 2030, and a per capita reimbursement of 30 dollars per month for every adult worldwide. This would be a substantial financial inflow to the Global South, where per capita carbon emissions are relatively low and where 30 dollars has more purchasing power than in the wealthy Global North. Even though they understood that their own country would occur a financial loss under these conditions, three-quarters of respondents in the EU, and more than half in the US, expressed support for this idea.  
  
To test whether these were genuinely held convictions, the research team used a list experiment, for example: it “hid” the proposal among other ideas so that it would not be perceived as socially desirable and selected for that reason alone. It also linked the answer to an “action” – namely signing a fictitious petition to the government. The experts also used conjoint analysis, commonly used in political science, in which they compared the support for global policies with commonly discussed national policies. These experiments confirm the sincere support for global redistribution policies. For example, the conjoint analysis revealed that 58% of Americans and 60% of Europeans prefer a political program that contain a global redistribution policy to a program that does not, suggesting that this issue matters for voters.

**Willingness to pay the Global South**  
  
The researchers also found widespread support for a global tax on millionaires funding low-income countries (69% in the U.S., 84% in Europe), similar to support for a domestic tax on millionaires funding domestic public services. They then asked to the respondents how they would prefer to allocate the revenue from a global wealth tax: The median respondent allocated 30% to low-income countries versus 70% to domestic health and education. Other questions in the survey consistently showed that most people care about global poverty. For example, more than 60% of respondents wanted to increase their country’s foreign aid.  
  
“Against this backdrop, the question is why the international community is not making faster progress,” says Adrien Fabre. “Perhaps researchers, think tanks and policymakers haven’t realized that the world is not ready for global cooperation, and haven’t put enough work into designing global, ambitious policies. Perhaps the boundaries of what is considered realistic are shifting. Our work could contribute to this.”

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