Global Catastrophic Risks and International Collaboration

Opinion poll 2020

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Background & implementation

BACKGROUND

This survey was conducted by Novus on behalf of the Global Challenges Foundation. The purpose of the survey is to map out attitudes towards global catastrophic risks and international collaborations in ten different countries. The aim of this mapping exercise is to understand public opinion.

TARGET GROUP

Members of the public who use the internet, aged 18-79, in the following countries: Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, India, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, UK and USA.



AGE RANGE: 18-79

IMPLEMENTATION

TOTAL INTERVIEWS: 10,154

FIELD PERIOD: 25 JUNE – 9 JULY 2020

A total of 10,154 interviews were conducted in ten different countries between 25 June and 9 July 2020. All interviews were conducted via web interviews, which means that the interviews reflect the proportion of the public that has access to the internet in each country. It is important to bear in mind that for some countries the results are represented to a greater extent by people living in larger cities who have a higher income and level of education. For Sweden, the survey was conducted through a Swedish panel randomly recruited by Novus that provides representative results. The surveys in the remaining nine countries were conducted by Novus' business partners.

RESULTS

The results are provided in a graphical report containing results for each country.

When comparing differences between countries, we examined them by means of a t-test. A t-test aims to examine whether there are significant differences between two groups.

When we compare different significant differences in sub-groups (gender, age and education), these are compared, in contrast to the t-test, with the total for each country using what is known as a chi-2 test.

MARGIN OF ERROR

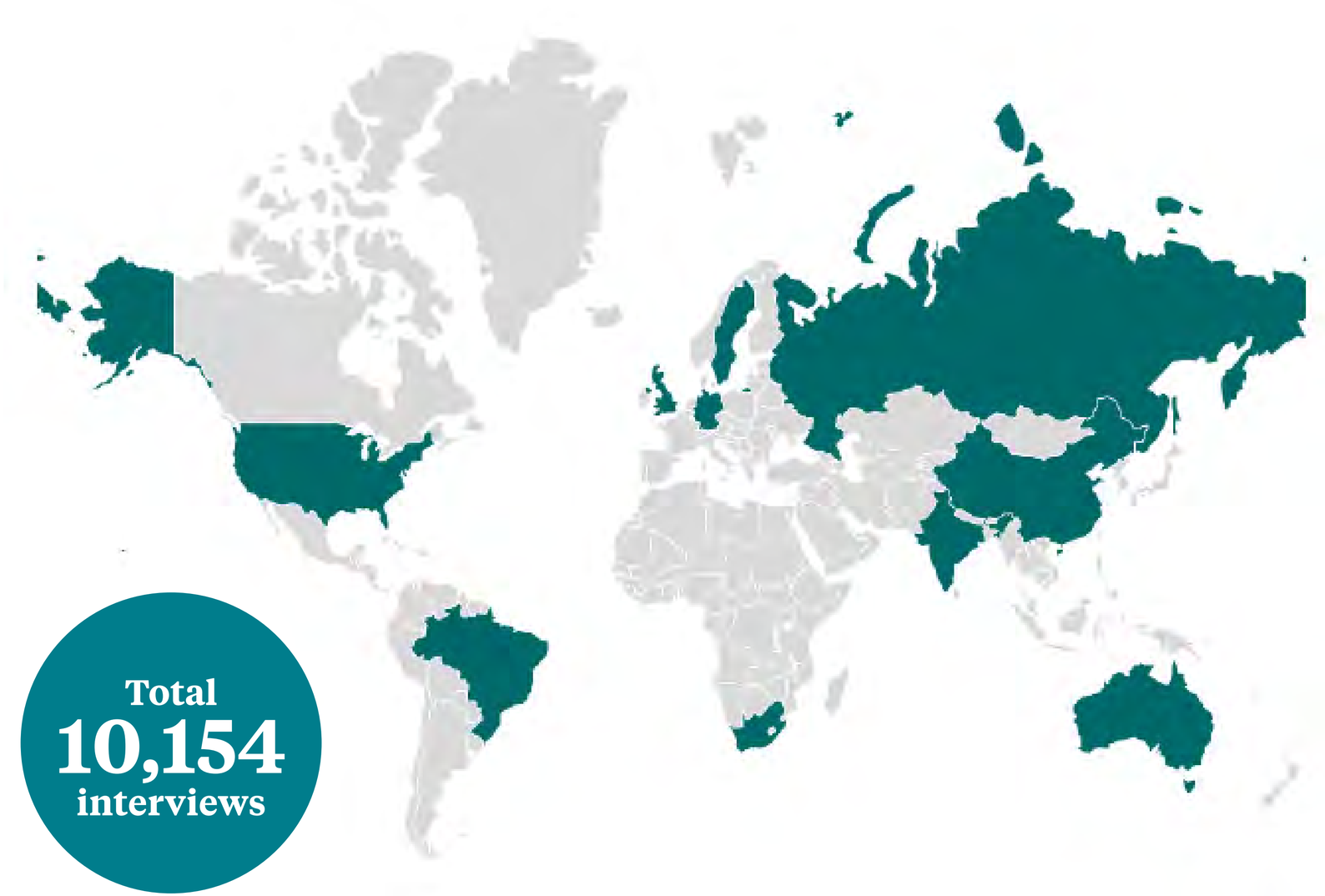
With 1,000 interviews:

At a drop-off rate of 20/80: +/- 2.5%

At a drop-off rate of 50/50: +/- 3.2%

Countries surveyed

Countries	No. of interviews
Sweden	1,114
Brazil	1,003
USA	1,000
UK	1,000
Germany	1,003
Australia	1,001
China	1,015
India	1,000
South Africa	1,003
Russia	1,015



Results

The public's perception of global catastrophic risks



When we talk about global catastrophic risks, we mean events or threats that might cause humanity serious damage worldwide, whether immediately or in the future, with the potential to affect 10% or more of the global population.

Summary

A SAFER OR A LESS SAFE WORLD

- A majority in all countries believe that the **world is less safe today** than it was two years ago. We find the biggest proportion who think the world has become less safe in South Africa, Australia, Russia and Brazil, while the lowest proportion may be found in India, Germany and Sweden.

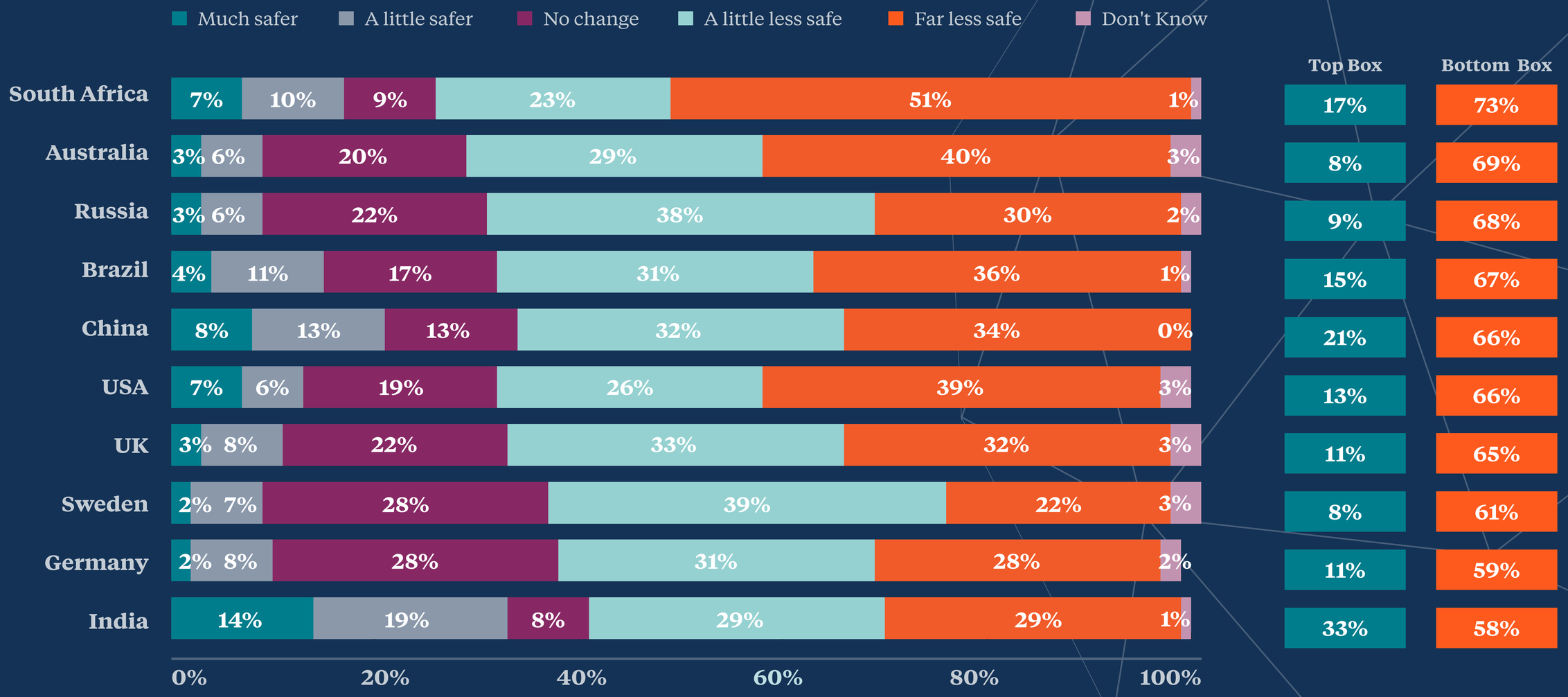
- Older people are generally more inclined to feel that the world is less safe now than two years ago. A common feature for all countries, apart from Brazil, is that the number of those who feel that the world has become less safe increases with age.

CURRENT STATE OF THE WORLD

- When we ask them to describe their general view of the state of the world in their own words, this is shaped by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The word **pandemic** is one of the words that occurs most frequently in all countries. Other common descriptions of the state of the world are, for example, that it is **unsafe, frightening or chaotic.**

- **Climate and environmental issues** are also raised in several countries. This is particularly true of Germany and partly of Sweden, although these issues are also mentioned in different ways in many of the other countries. In the UK, Brazil, India and Russia, they are often mentioned in relation to pollution.

When it comes to global catastrophic risks, how much safer or less safe would you say the world is today, compared to two years ago?



	Top Box	Bottom Box
South Africa	17%	73%
Australia	8%	69%
Russia	9%	68%
Brazil	15%	67%
China	21%	66%
USA	13%	66%
UK	11%	65%
Sweden	8%	61%
Germany	11%	59%
India	33%	58%

BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Older people feel that the world is less safe now than two years ago



1.	Brazil	67%
2.	South Africa	64%
3.	Russia	63%
4.	UK	62%
5.	USA	56%
6.	China	53%
7.	Australia	51%
8.	Sweden	47%
9.	India	47%
10.	Germany	39%



1.	South Africa	73%
2.	China	71%
3.	Brazil	68%
4.	Russia	66%
5.	Australia	63%
6.	Sweden	61%
7.	UK	60%
8.	India	59%
9.	USA	57%
10.	Germany	52%



1.	South Africa	84%
2.	China	78%
3.	USA	75%
4.	Australia	73%
5.	UK	70%
6.	India	68%
7.	Russia	68%
8.	Germany	68%
9.	Brazil	66%
10.	Sweden	63%



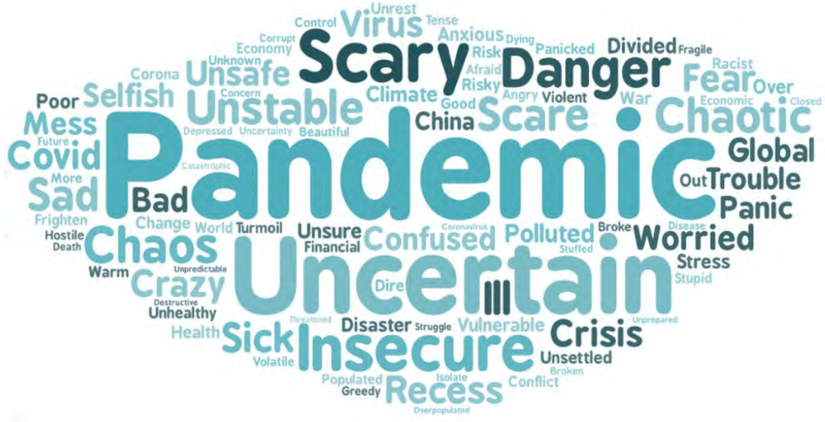
1.	South Africa	85%
2.	Australia	82%
3.	Russia	80%
4.	India	78%
5.	Germany	76%
6.	USA	74%
7.	China	73%
8.	Sweden	71%
9.	UK	68%
10.	Brazil	63%

Please describe the state of the world in no more than three words

Sweden



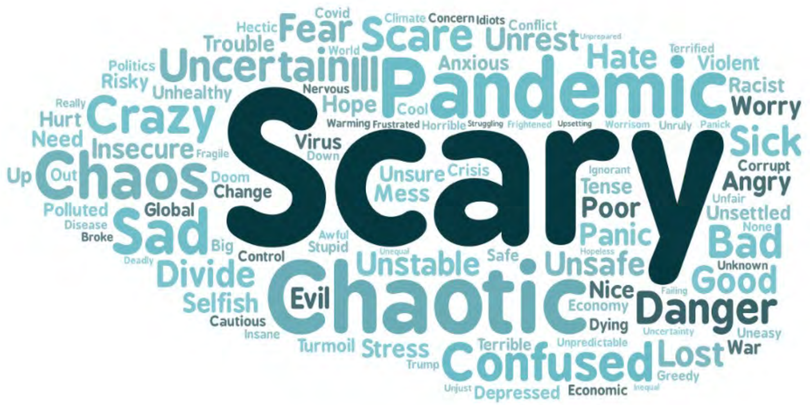
Australia



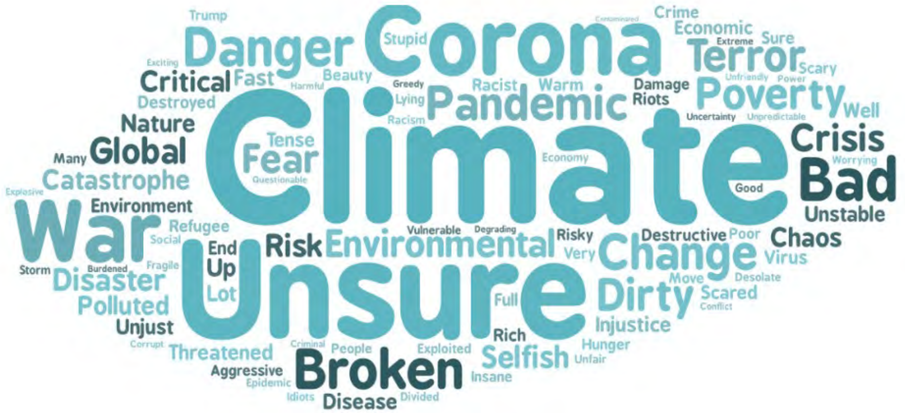
UK



USA



Germany



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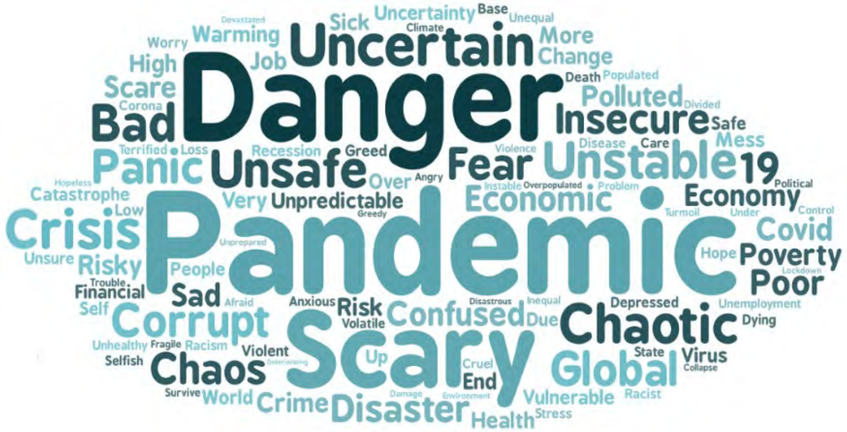
Please describe the state of the world in no more than three words

Russia



South Africa


Danger
Pandemic
Uncertain
Scary
Unsafe
Crisis
Panic
Fear
Bad
Chaotic
Corrupt
Chaos
Disaster
Unstable
Insecure
Global
Economic
Economy
Covid
Poverty
Poor
Sad
Risk
Confused
Violent
Crime
Health
Virus
Polluted
Climate
Change
Mess
Scare
Job
Warming
Sick
Worry
High
Recession
Greed
Violence
Disease
Care
Unpredictable
Unprepared
Catastrophe
Instable
Overpopulated
Problem
Turmoil
Under
Control
Lockdown
Hope
Unemployment
Dying
Inequal
Depressed
Due
State
Collapse
Up
Cruel
End
Vulnerable
Racist
Stress
Damage
Environment
Survive
Trouble
Financial
Self
Unhealthy
Fragile
Racism
Selfish
Low
Unsure
Risky
People
Afraid
Anxious
Volatile
Devastated
Unequal
Base
Uncertainty
Climate
More
Death
Populated
Divided
Political
Lockdowns
Safe
Worried
Nature
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Sick
Worry
High
Recession
Greed
Violence
Disease
Care
Unpredictable
Unprepared
Catastrophe
Instable
Overpopulated
Problem
Turmoil
Under
Control
Lockdowns
Hope

Please describe the state of the world in no more than three words

Sweden	
Pandemic	139
Worried	110
Uncertain	77
War	53
Chaos	49
Climate crisis	36
Concern	35
Trump	31
COVID-19	30
Leaders	27
Unstable	26
Worried	24
Climate change	23
Unsafe	21
Famine	21
Crisis	20
Poverty	19
Frightening	17
Polarised	16

USA	
Scary	85
Chaotic	71
Pandemic	66
Chaos	54
Confused	48
Uncertain	44
Danger	43
Crazy	40
Sad	38
Scare	36
Unstable	36
Divide	31
Unrest	28
Good	26
Bad	25
Fear	23
Unsafe	23
Lost	22
Hate	21

Australia	
Pandemic	82
Uncertain	62
Scary	61
Insecure	44
Danger	41
Unstable	41
Chaotic	41
Chaos	38
Scare	35
Recess	34
Worried	33
Confused	33
Crazy	30
Unsafe	28
Crisis	27
Covid	26
Selfish	24
Trouble	24
Virus	23

Germany	
Climate	82
Unsure	61
COVID-19	56
Pandemic	52
Danger	49
Broken	48
Change	48
War	48
Environmental	44
Overpopulated	35
Poverty	34
Catastrophe	32
III	31
Terror	30
Bad	29
Chaotic	28
Dirty	27
Endangered	27
Disaster	25

UK	
Pandemic	74
Scary	72
Danger	61
Uncertain	53
Unstable	49
Worry	45
Chaotic	43
Polluted	41
Unsafe	34
Mess	28
Confused	28
Selfish	25
Divided	25
Scare	24
Insecure	23
Crisis	21
Unsure	20
Chaos	20
Crazy	18

Please describe the state of the world in no more than three words

Russia		Brazil		South Africa		China		India	
Pandemic	122	Chaotic	112	Pandemic	103	Epidemic	151	Pandemic	76
Crisis	86	Pandemic	86	Danger	67	Confused	105	Insecure	70
War	79	Danger	65	Scary	64	Chaos	80	Global	59
Instability	54	Polluted	58	Uncertain	62	Virus	65	Fear	53
Danger	53	Insecure	56	Unstable	57	Risk	57	Danger	52
Anxiety	51	Chaos	42	Chaotic	50	War	56	Warm	45
Ecology	50	Catastrophe	40	Corrupt	49	Peace	55	Economy	44
COVID-19	46	Fear	35	Unsafe	49	Disaster	53	Covid	42
Pollution	42	Sick	34	Global	46	Economic	52	Secure	42
Warming	41	Worrisome	33	Insecure	46	Global	48	Good	41
Fear	39	Global	28	Crisis	42	Stable	41	World	41
Unstable	38	Crisis	26	Economic	39	Insurance	41	Polluted	41
Global	37	Calamity	23	Disaster	37	Disease	40	Economic	39
Chaos	37	Deforested	22	Chaos	36	Turmoil	38	War	38
Disaster	33	Sad	22	Economy	35	Fight	36	COVID-19	37
Epidemic	32	Unstable	21	Panic	35	Hair	33	Unemployment	33
Aggressive	23	Without	20	Poverty	35	Safe	32	Virus	31
World	25	Violent	20	Confused	32	New	32	Uncertain	27
Change	24	Out	19	Covid	30	Conflict	31	Crisis	26

The public's risk assessment of global catastrophic risks



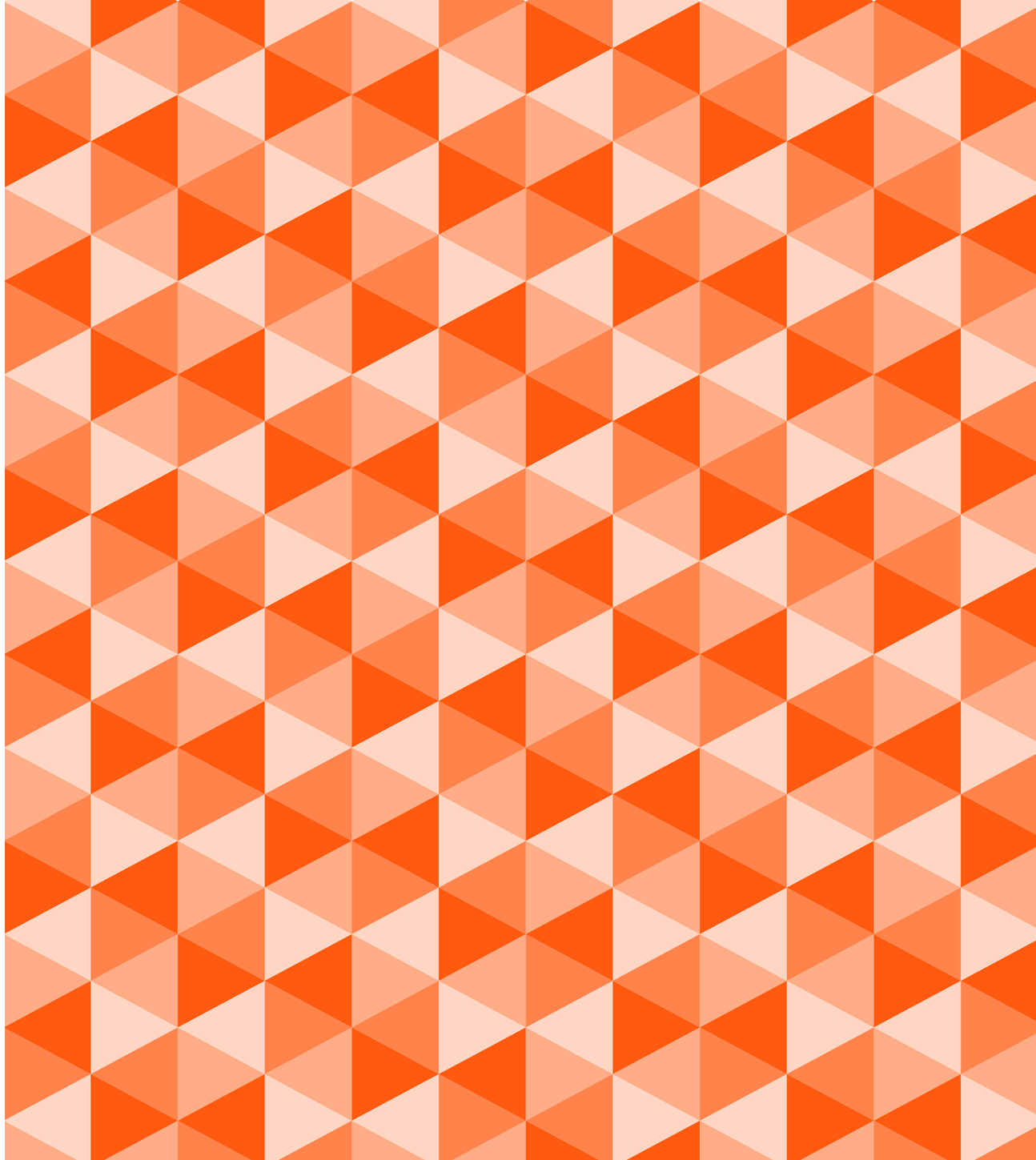
Summary

GLOBAL RISKS

- A majority of the population in all countries in the survey regard climate change, environmental degradation, political violence, weapons of mass destruction, pandemics, artificial intelligence, population increases and extreme poverty as potential global catastrophic risks.

- In certain countries, more events are more likely to be considered as potential risks. This is particularly true of people in India, Brazil and South Africa. On the other side, i.e. those who generally see fewer risks, we find the USA. People in the USA consider climate change, environmental degradation and pandemics to be significantly lower risks than those in most other countries.

- In general, women in most countries are more likely to view more events as potential risks. We see this in countries such as Sweden, the UK, Germany, Brazil and Russia, while women in countries such as China and India do not differ from men quite as much.



Summary

CLIMATE CHANGE

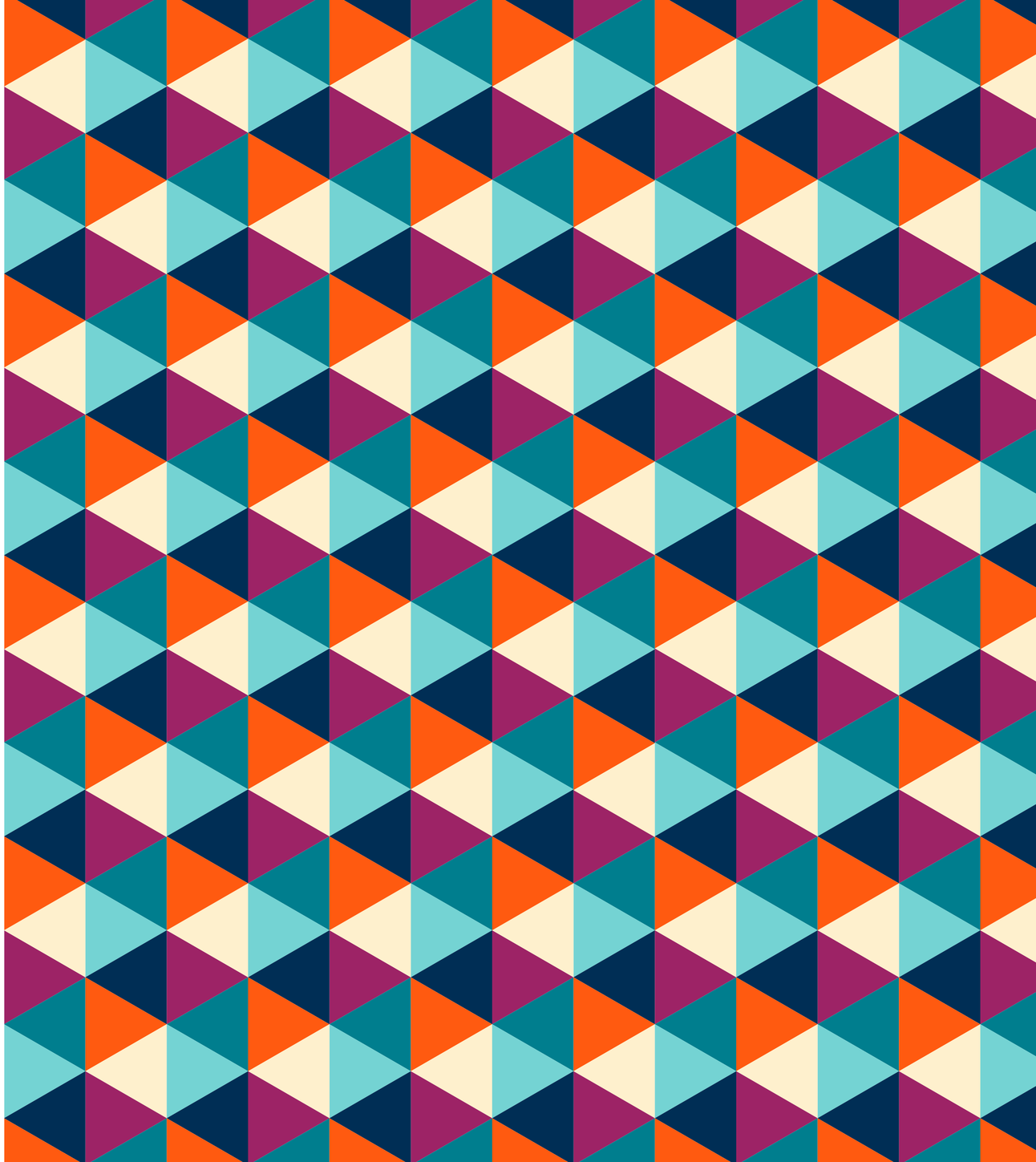
- Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps, is considered a global catastrophic risk to the greatest degree by people living in Brazil, South Africa and India. Residents in any of these three countries are more likely to consider climate change to be a risk than those in other countries in the survey.

OTHER LARGE-SCALE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

- Large-scale environmental degradation, such as pollution of water, air and soil, is considered a global disaster to the highest degree by people in Brazil, South Africa, Sweden and India.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AND CONFLICTS THAT ESCALATE INTO WAR

- Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war are very much regarded as a risk in Brazil, but also in South Africa, Sweden and Russia.



Summary

THE USE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS)

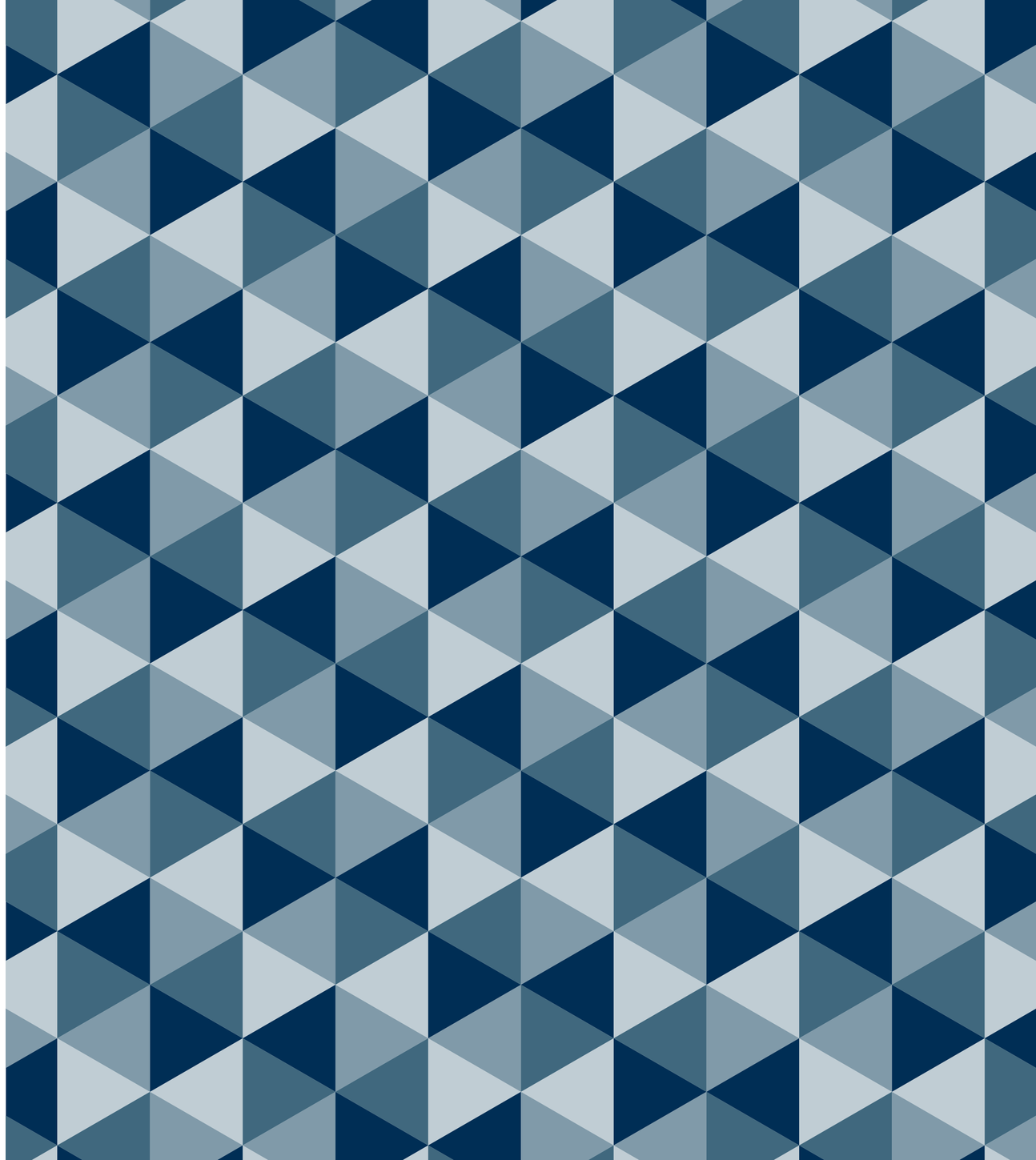
- The use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons) is considered to be a global catastrophic risk to a greater extent among people in Brazil, but it is also considered a major risk in Russia, India, South Africa and Sweden.

EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS

- Epidemics and pandemics are regarded as a global catastrophic risk to the greatest extent by people in Brazil, who are more likely to think so than those in other countries, although closely followed by Sweden, South Africa, China and India, who also regard it as a significant risk.

THE CREATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT MIGHT ACHIEVE SUPERHUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND MAKE INDEPENDENT DECISIONS, THEREBY BECOMING A THREAT TO HUMANITY

- The creation of Artificial Intelligence that might be able to achieve superhuman knowledge and make independent decisions, which is regarded as a risk of a global catastrophic risk to the greatest extent by people in India, who believe this more than those in other countries.



Summary

POPULATION GROWTH

- Population growth is considered a global catastrophic risk to the greatest extent by people in India, they believe this more so than those in other countries. People in Russia consider it a risk to a lesser extent than those in other countries.

EXTREME POVERTY

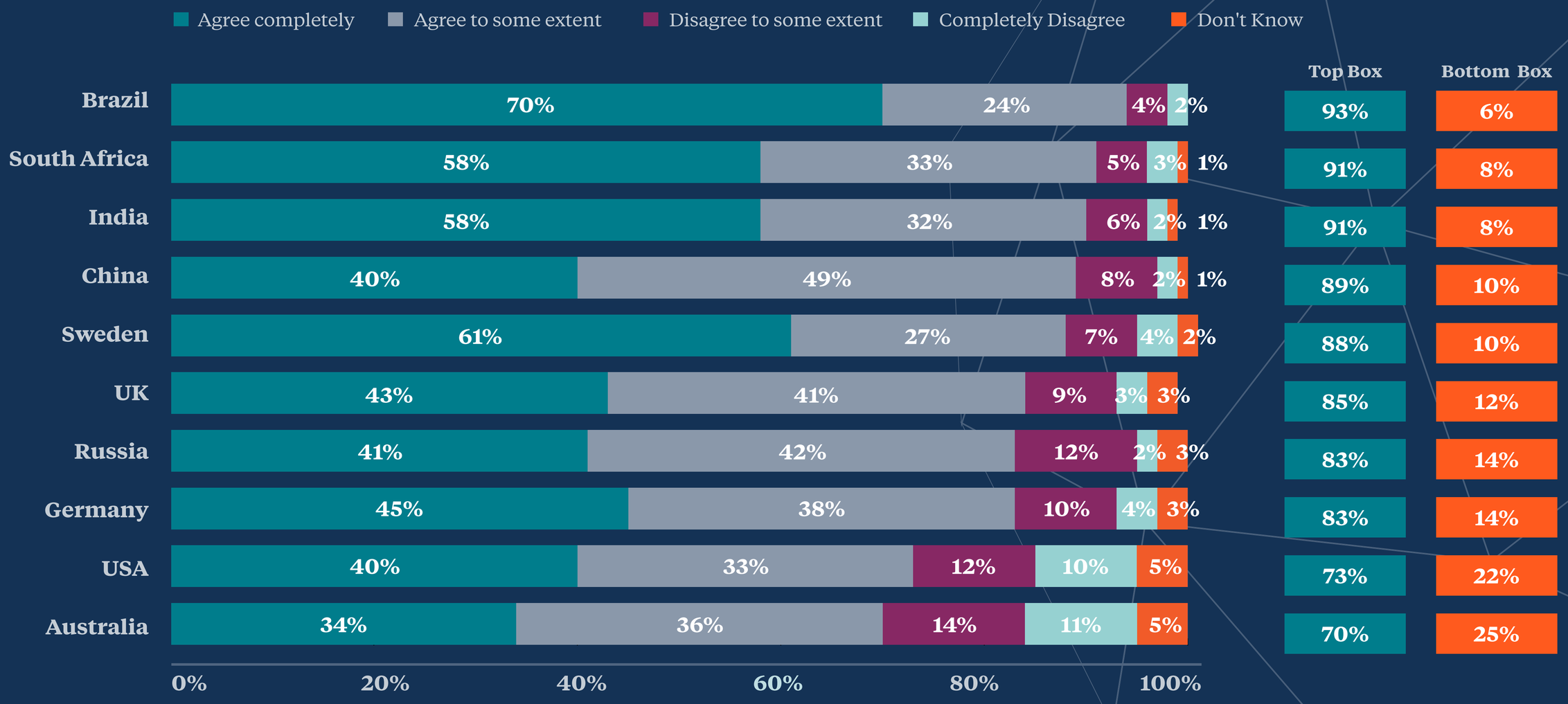
- Extreme poverty is considered to be a global catastrophic risk to the greatest extent among people in South Africa and Brazil, with people in both countries mentioning it more than those in other countries. Extreme poverty is considered to be a risk to the least extent among the people of China.

TOP 3 RANKING - WHICH RISKS NEED ADDRESSING MOST URGENTLY

- For six out of ten countries, the issue of epidemics and pandemics leads the way as the issue that people believe should be addressed first.
  The issue of pandemics comes first in Australia, the UK, the USA, India, Brazil and China.

- In Sweden and Germany, by contrast, the issue of climate change leads the way, while extreme poverty comes first in South Africa, and the use of weapons of mass destruction comes first in Russia.

How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps



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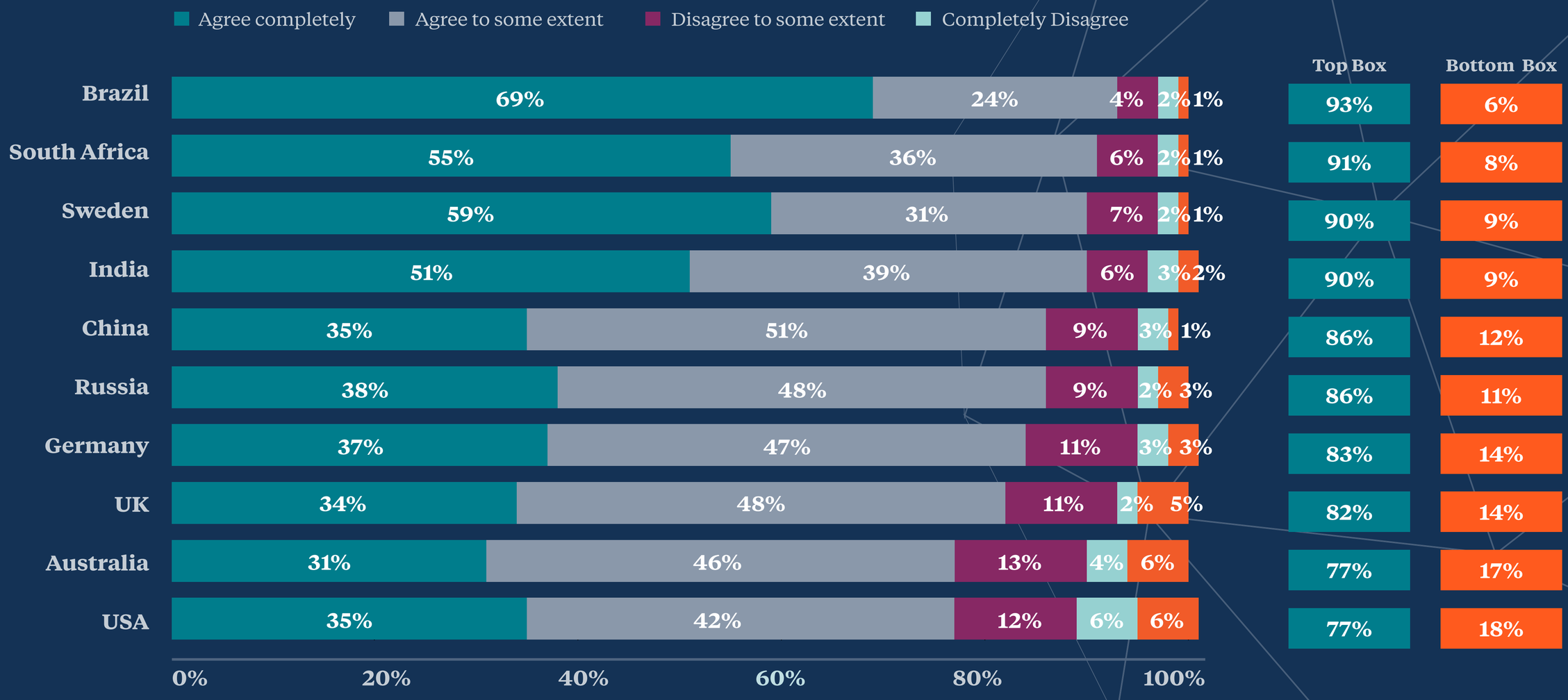
How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
Other large-scale environmental degradation, such as pollutions of water, air and soil



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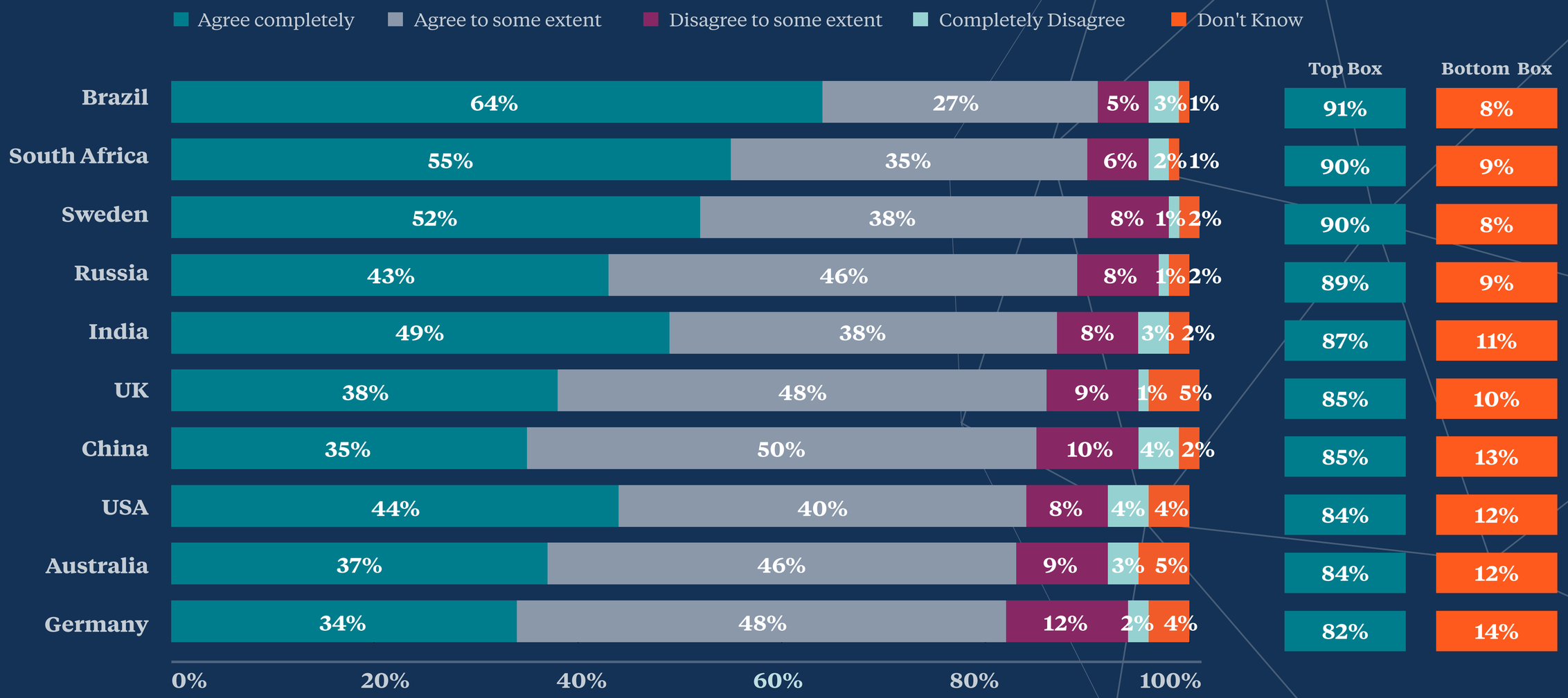
How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war



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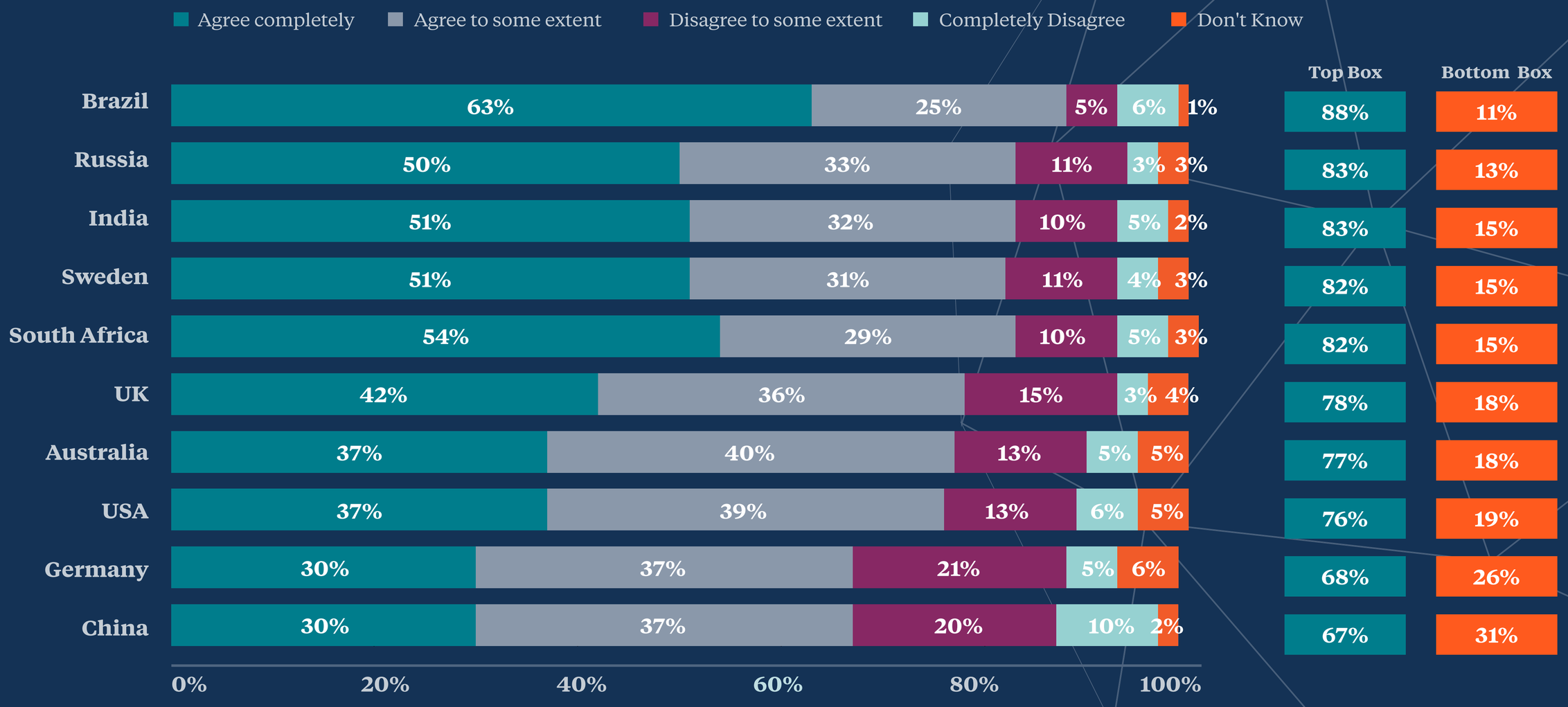
How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
The use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons)



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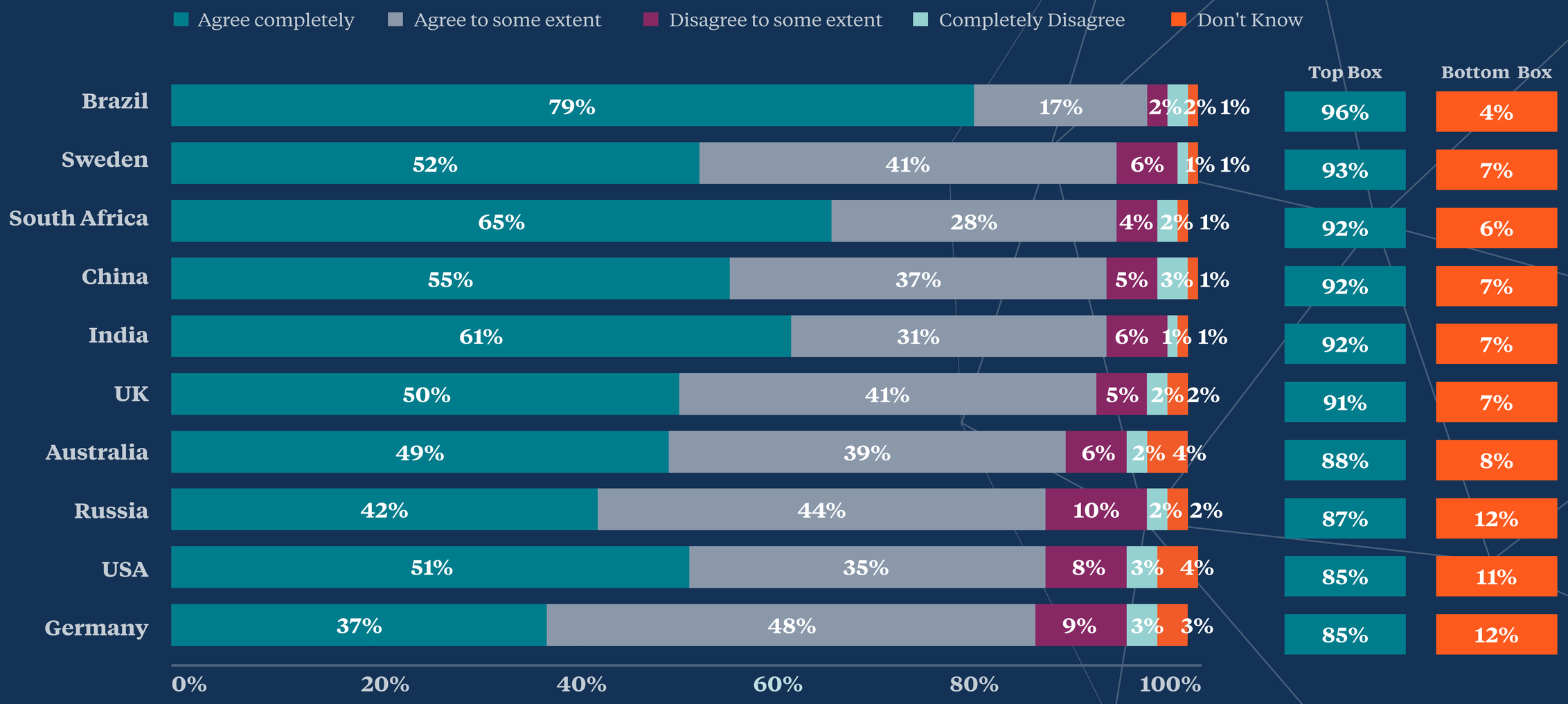
How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
Epidemics and pandemics



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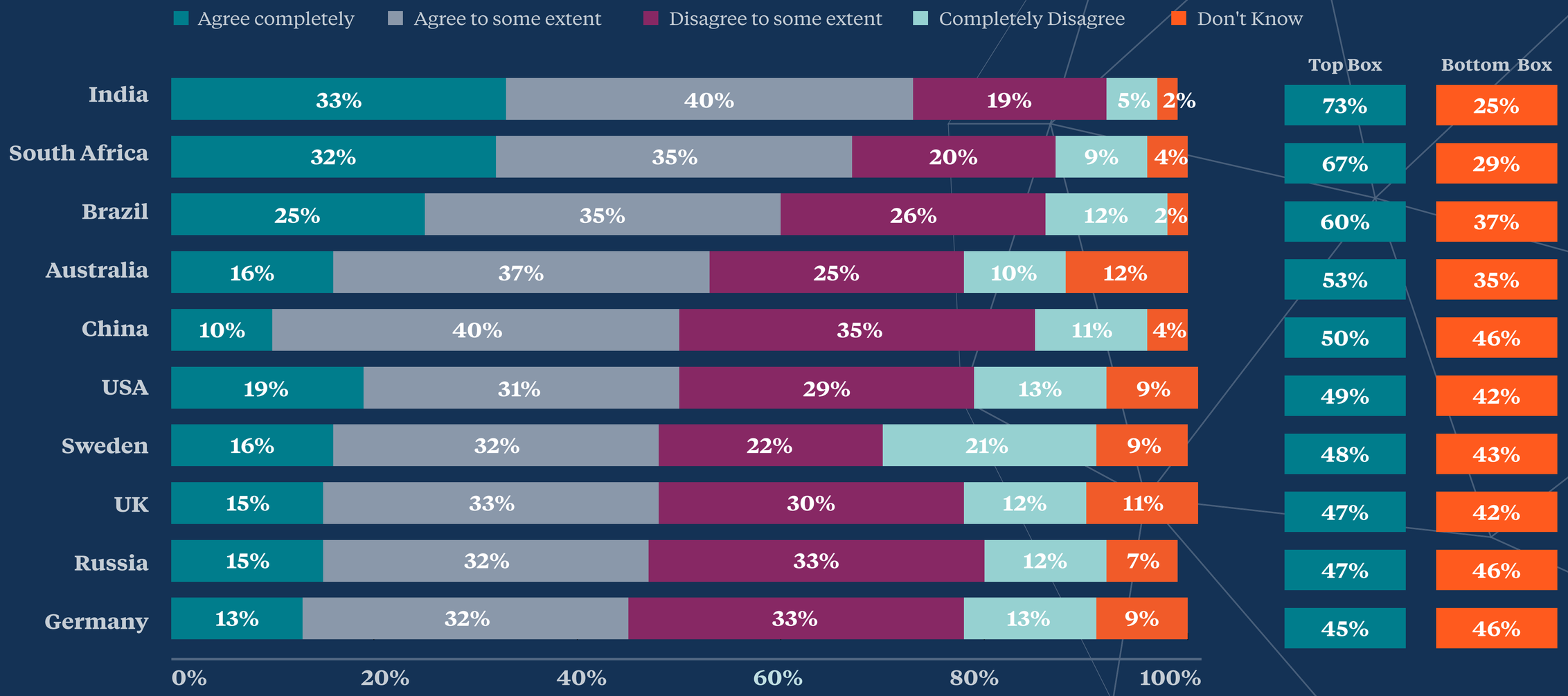
How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
The creation of Artificial Intelligence that might achieve superhuman knowledge and make independent decisions, thereby becoming a threat to humanity



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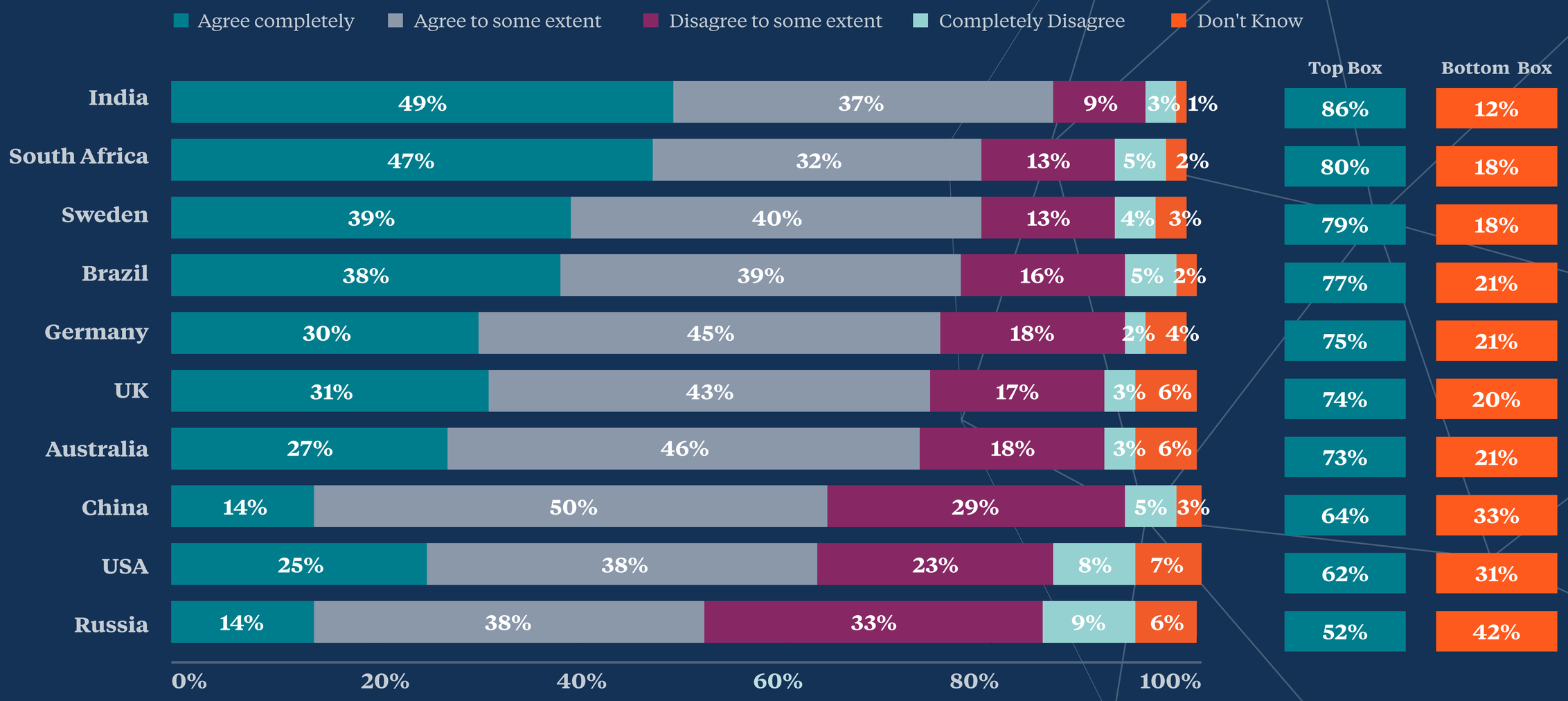
How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
Population growth



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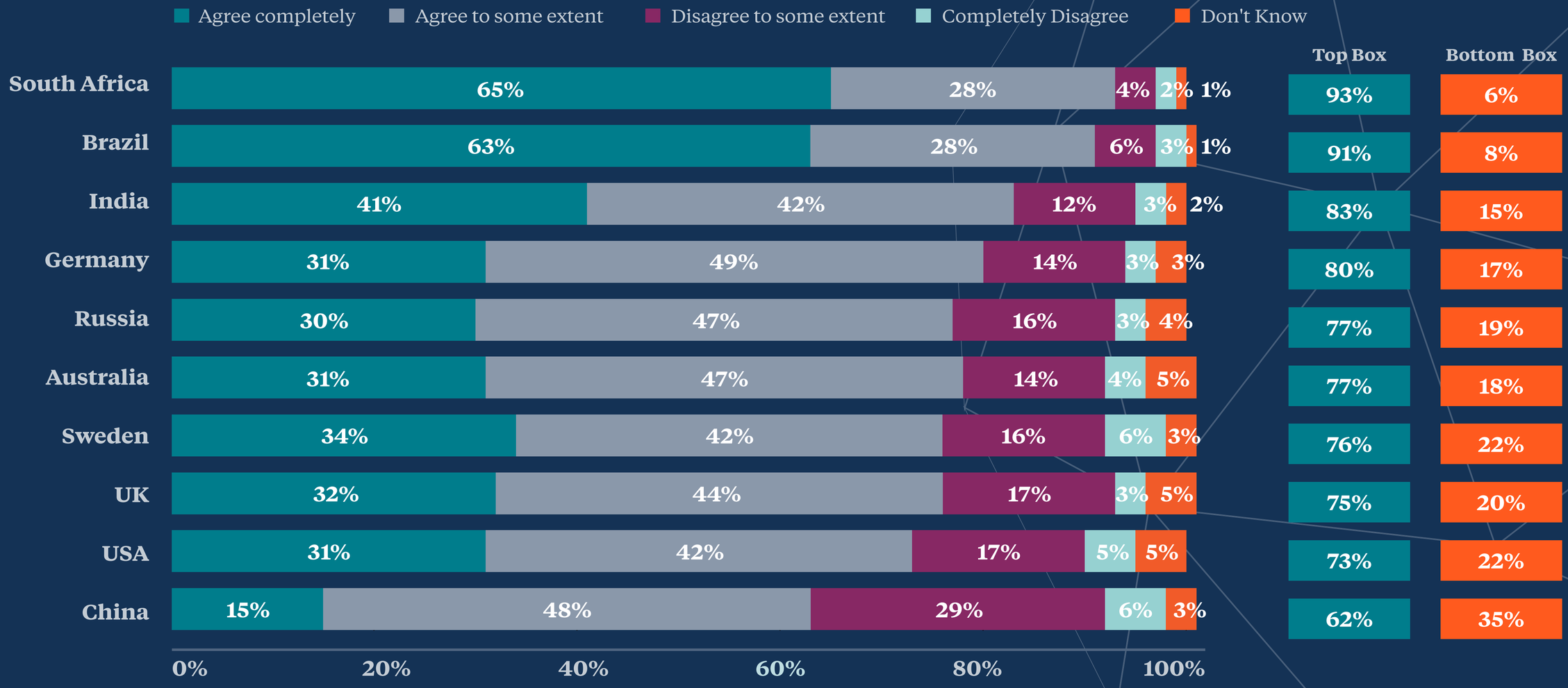
How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
Extreme poverty



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How much do you agree or disagree that the following may be considered a global catastrophic risk:
Replied that they agree fully or partly

	Sweden		UK		USA		Australia		South Africa		India		Germany		Brazil		China		Russia	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Epidemics and pandemics	90%	96%	89%	93%	84%	87%	87%	89%	91%	95%	90%	93%	82%	88%	94%	97%	91%	94%	89%	88%
Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war	88%	92%	84%	86%	84%	84%	83%	84%	91%	94%	89%	92%	80%	86%	89%	97%	87%	90%	83%	90%
Other large-scale environmental degradation, such as water, air and soil pollution	87%	93%	82%	87%	75%	78%	73%	82%	91%	91%	90%	90%	78%	87%	89%	97%	84%	89%	82%	90%
Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps	82%	94%	79%	85%	74%	79%	73%	81%	89%	93%	87%	88%	80%	85%	88%	94%	84%	85%	78%	88%
The use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons)	76%	89%	71%	84%	72%	74%	72%	82%	89%	91%	83%	90%	77%	83%	87%	95%	66%	69%	78%	87%
Population growth	78%	80%	70%	81%	69%	76%	75%	70%	82%	82%	81%	85%	76%	75%	84%	92%	64%	64%	77%	77%
Extreme poverty	71%	81%	77%	71%	65%	60%	62%	77%	78%	82%	81%	84%	60%	75%	76%	78%	62%	63%	50%	54%
The creation of Artificial Intelligence that might achieve superhuman knowledge and make independent decisions, thereby becoming a threat to humanity	46%	50%	40%	54%	46%	53%	50%	56%	63%	71%	71%	75%	42%	49%	54%	67%	44%	56%	39%	55%

The marked squares are respectively positive and negative significance by age and country, as each age category is tested if it is significantly smaller or larger than the national total. The colour purple means it is significantly bigger than the total and orange significantly smaller.

How urgent do you think it is to address each of the following risks?

Please rank the risks from those requiring "most urgent" to "least urgent" action.

Sweden	
1.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps
2.	Other large-scale environmental degradation, such as water, air and soil pollution
3.	Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war

Australia	
1.	Epidemics and pandemics
2.	Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war
3.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps

UK	
1.	Epidemics and pandemics
2.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps
3.	Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war

USA	
1.	Epidemics and pandemics
2.	Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war
3.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps

Germany	
1.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps
2.	Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war
3.	Epidemics and pandemics

BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

How urgent do you think it is to address each of the following risks?

Please rank the risks from those requiring "most urgent" to "least urgent" action.

Russia	
1.	The use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons)
2.	Epidemics and pandemics
3.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps

South Africa	
1.	Extreme poverty
2.	Epidemics and pandemics
3.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps

India	
1.	Epidemics and pandemics
2.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps
3.	The use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons)

Brazil	
1.	Epidemics and pandemics
2.	Extreme poverty
3.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps

China	
1.	Epidemics and pandemics
2.	Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war
3.	Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps

BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

The world’s natural resources



Summary

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION GROWTH BY 2100

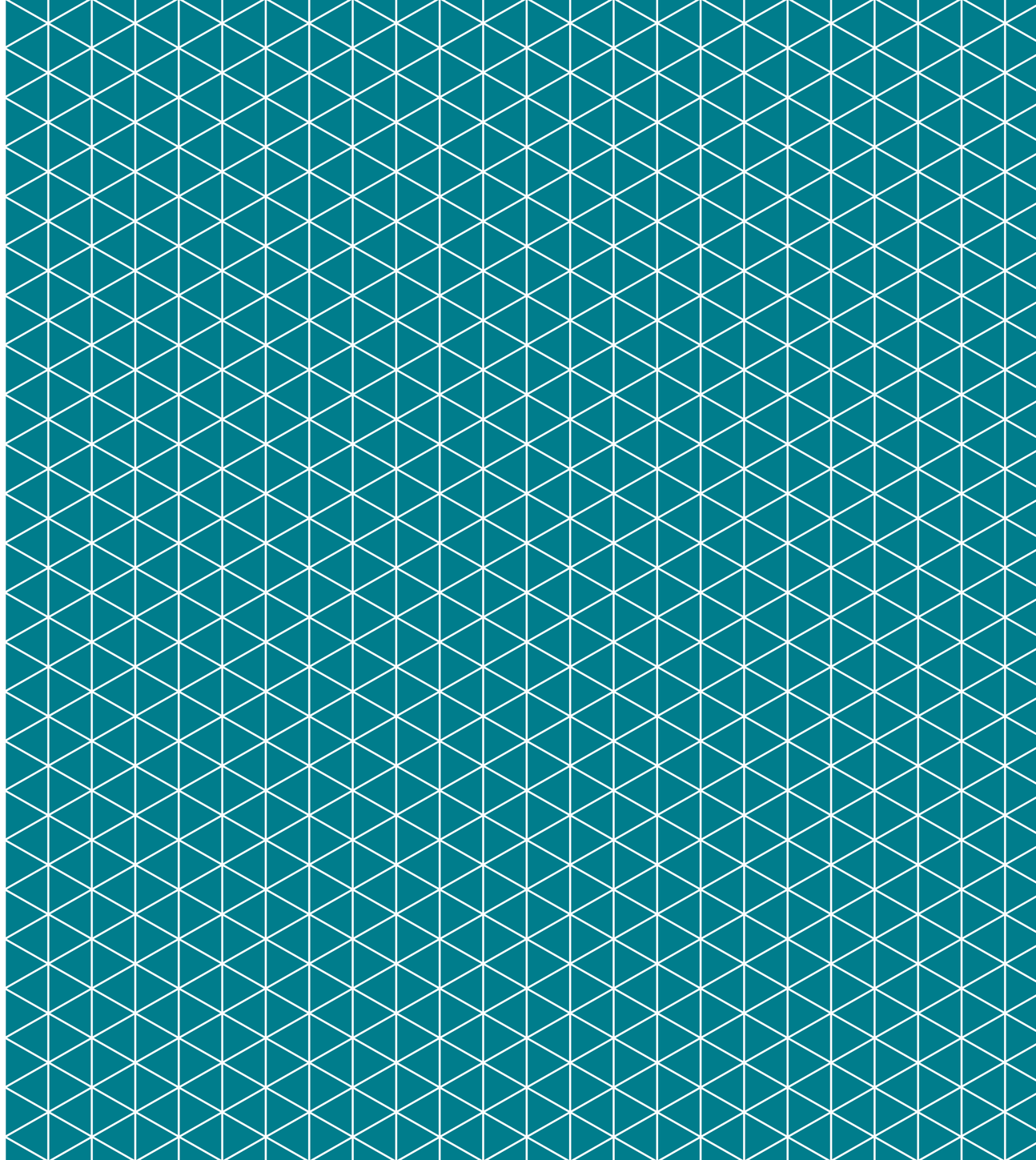
- A **majority in all countries**, apart from India, **have a negative view of the population growth** that is expected to happen by the year 2100 according to the UN's latest forecasts. People in Sweden, Germany and the UK are particularly negative about the consequences of impending population growth, more so than those in the other countries.

- A general observation is that **younger** people tend to see the consequences as something slightly **more positive**; this applies to most of the countries, apart from Sweden, Brazil and Russia.

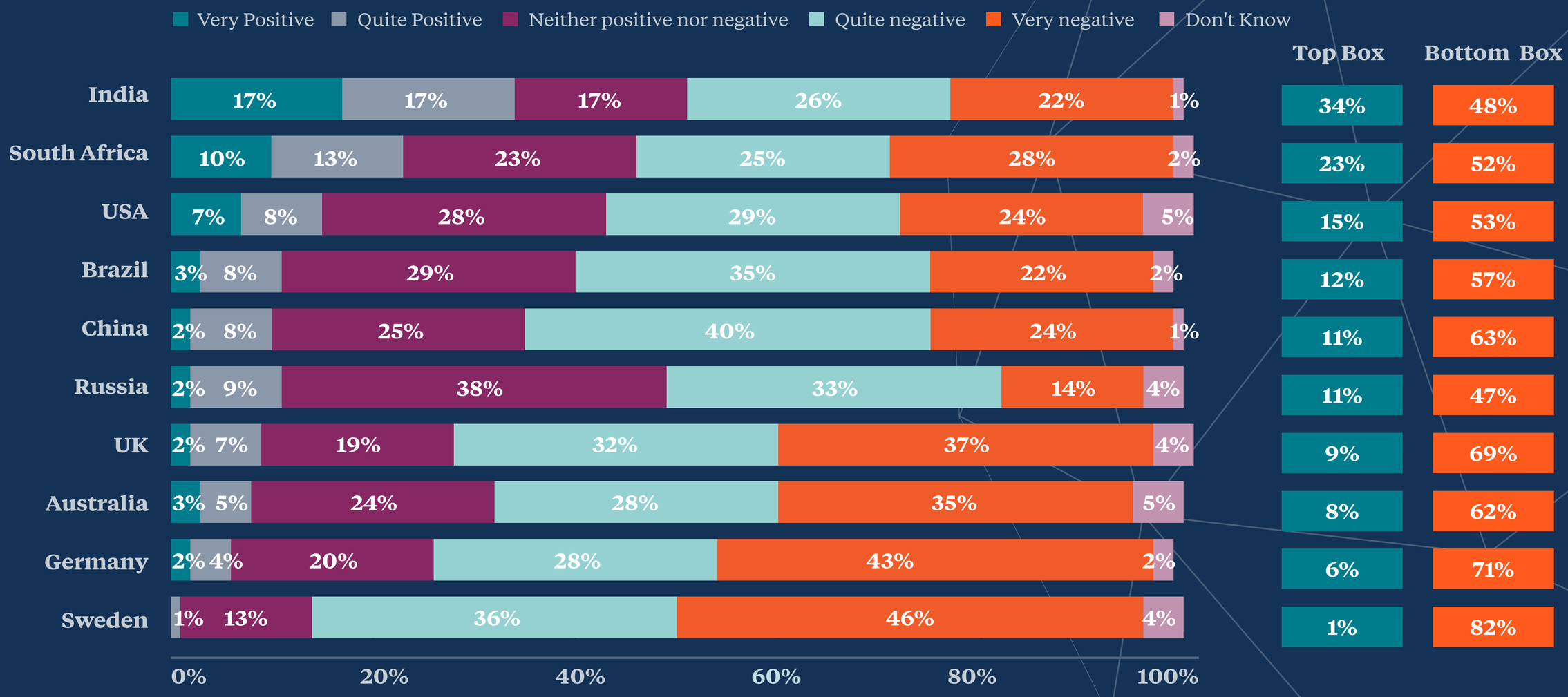
- **Highly educated people**, regardless of country, tend to see the consequences as **more negative.**

LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE WORLD

- When asked whether they believe that the world's **natural resources** are sufficient to enable all the world's inhabitants to have the same standard of living as the industrialised countries right now, given modern technology, natural resources are seen as insufficient in most of the countries. More than half of the people in almost all of the countries except Russia agree, fully or partly, that natural resources are **insufficient**. Those who feel in particular that they are insufficient compared to those in other countries are people in **Sweden, Germany and the UK**.



According to the UN's latest forecasts, the world's population will increase from 7.8 billion to 10.9 billion by 2100. Do you believe that the consequences of such an increase in the population would be:



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According to the UN's latest forecasts, the world's population will increase from 7.8 billion to 10.9 billion by 2100. Do you believe that the consequences of such an increase in the population would be very or quite negative?

	Aged 18-29	Aged 30-49	Aged 50-64	Aged 65-79
Sweden	79%	86%	80%	81%
Russia	59%	48%	39%	43%
Brazil	59%	54%	58%	61%
UK	56%	63%	79%	80%
China	54%	67%	68%	73%
Germany	53%	67%	79%	81%
Australia	48%	56%	71%	68%
South Africa	41%	48%	69%	83%
USA	41%	47%	59%	63%
India	39%	46%	61%	62%

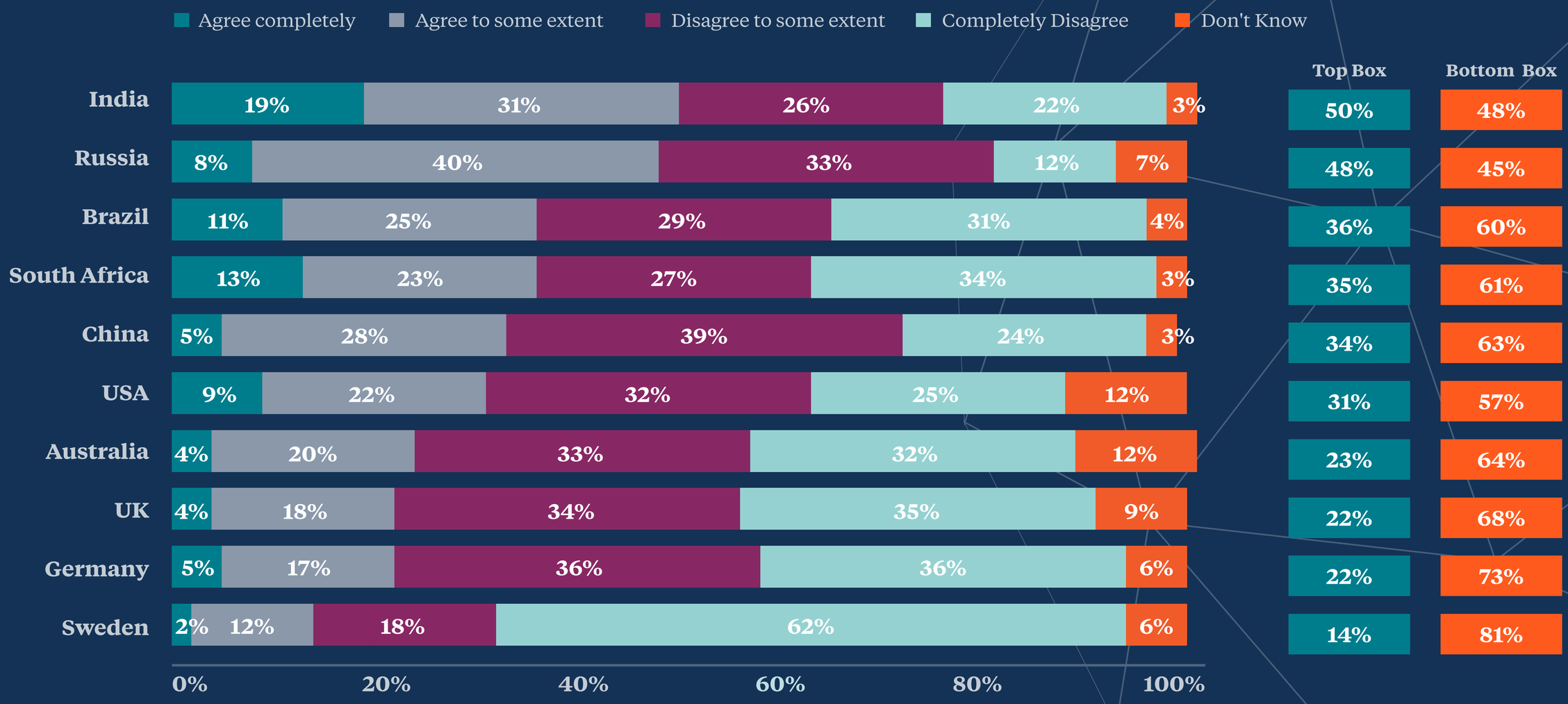
The marked squares are respectively positive and negative significance by age and country, as each age category is tested if it is significantly smaller or larger than the national total. The colour purple means it is significantly bigger than the total and orange significantly smaller.

According to the UN's latest forecasts, the world's population will increase from 7.8 billion to 10.9 billion by 2100. Do you believe that the consequences of such an increase in the population would be very or quite negative?

	Upper secondary school or equivalent	Institute of higher education
Sweden	84%	82%
Germany	68%	79%
UK	66%	72%
Australia	62%	64%
China	59%	64%
Brazil	53%	60%
USA	45%	58%
South Africa	47%	56%
India	35%	50%
Russia	41%	49%

The marked squares are respectively positive and negative significance by age and country, as each age category is tested if it is significantly smaller or larger than the national total. The colour purple means it is significantly bigger than the total and orange significantly smaller.

With modern technology, to what extent do you agree that the world's natural resources are sufficient to enable all of the inhabitants of the earth to have the same standard of living as industrialised countries have right now?



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COVID-19 pandemic



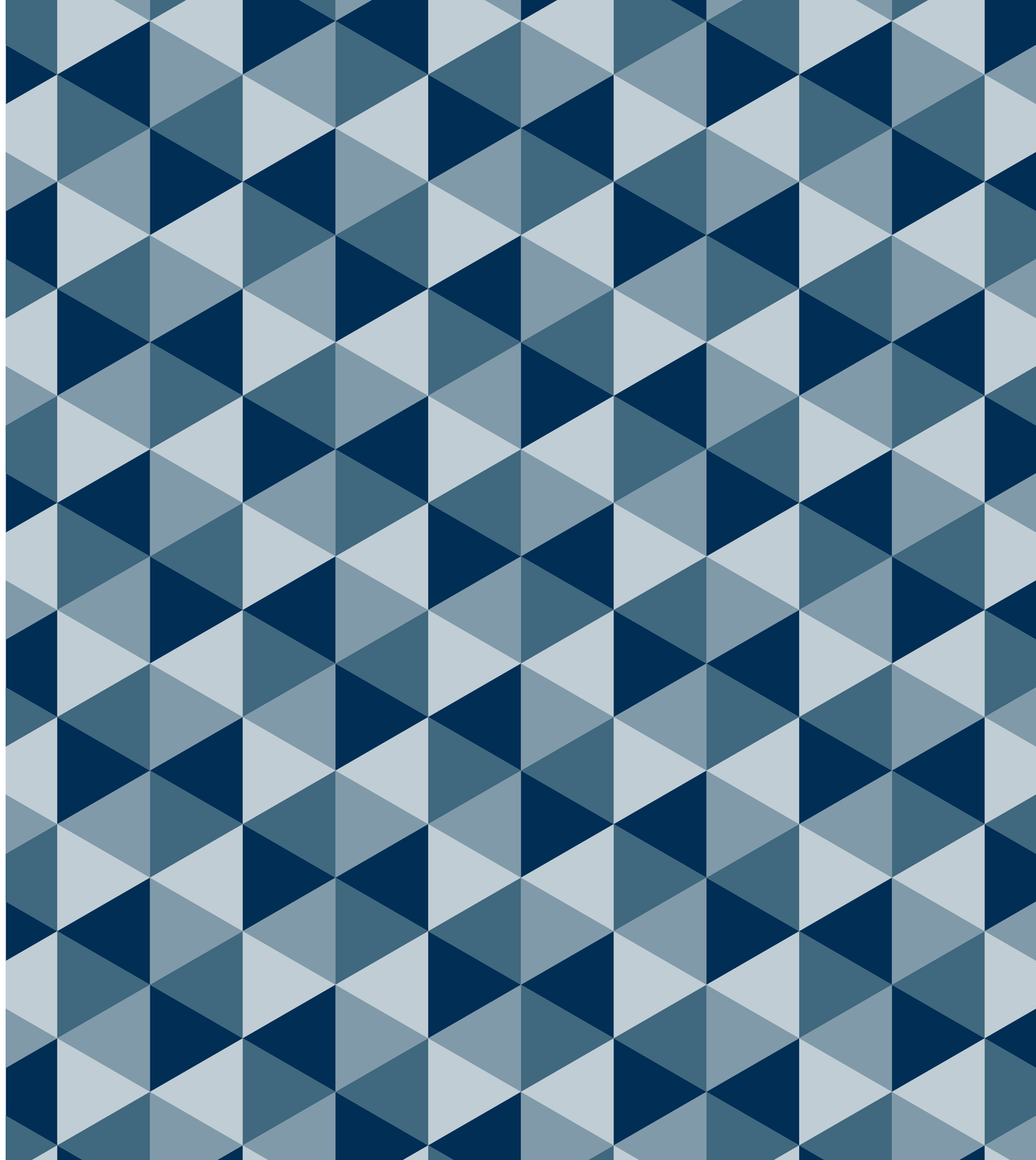
Summary

HOW AFFECTED PEOPLE ARE BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- People in **Brazil, South Africa, China and India** respond **to a greater extent** than those in other countries that they are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In India and South Africa, the biggest proportion, 56%, say that they are highly affected.
- If we look at how different age groups perceive how much they are affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there are many differences between the countries. In **Sweden**, it is **to a greater extent older people** who feel significantly affected, while in many other countries it is those who are younger and/or middle-aged who feel significantly more affected; this is the case for people in Australia, South Africa, India, Germany and China. There are no significant differences between age groups in the USA, the UK, Brazil and Russia.
- In Sweden, the UK, Australia, Brazil and Russia, women are more likely to respond that they are affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

IN WHAT WAY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

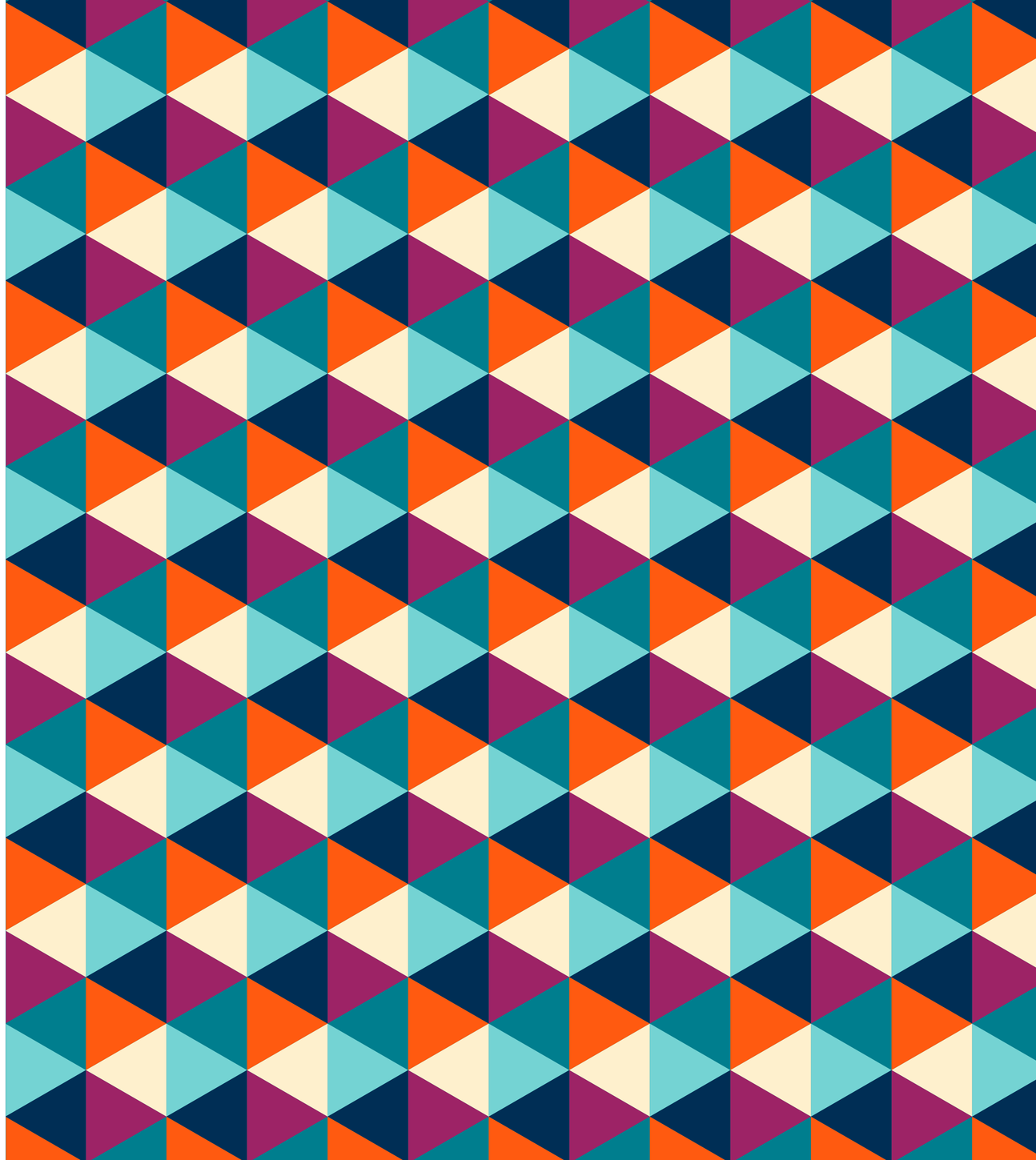
- Those who are affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic often mention that they have worked from home and stayed at home, restrictions and isolation, as well as reduced social contacts.



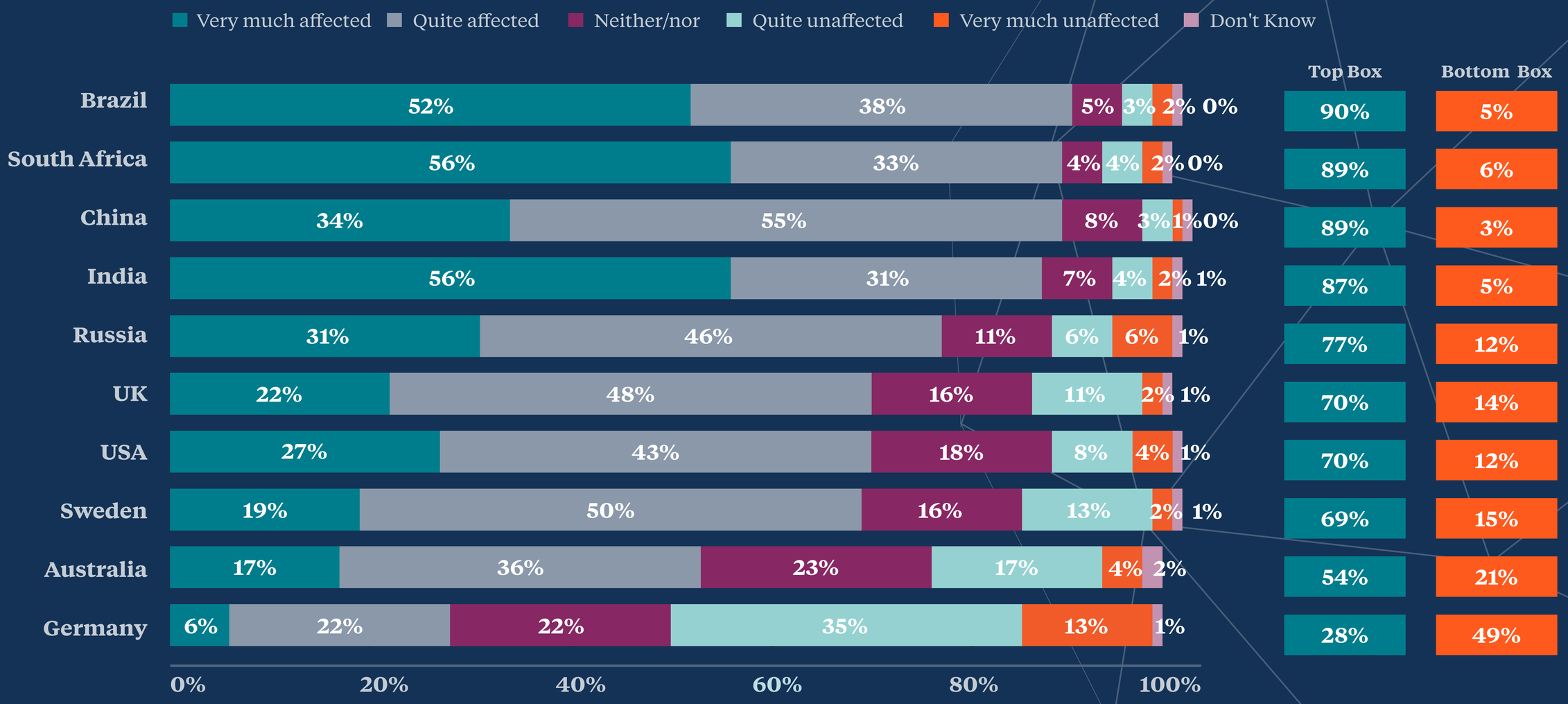
Summary

CHANGES IN THE WAY THEY LIVE IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION IN THE PANDEMIC

- When asked how they are prepared to change the way they live in order to prevent the spread of infection in the pandemic, a majority in all countries reply that they are willing to do at least one or more things.
- Changes that they might consider making differ slightly between countries; in Australia, the UK and Russia, people respond to a greater extent that they are prepared to accept a lockdown of society.



How affected or unaffected would you say that you are by the following:
Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic



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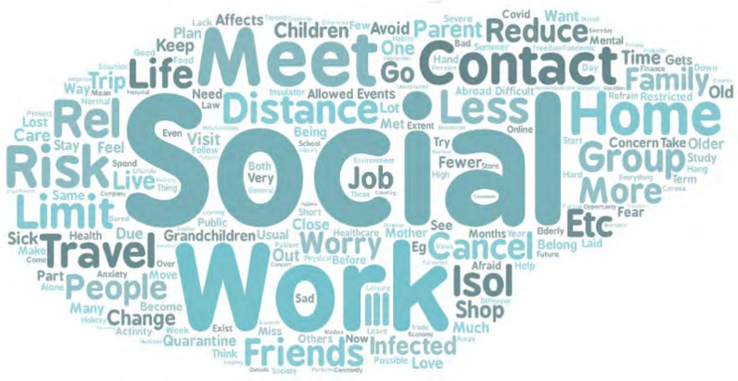
How affected or unaffected would you say that you are by the pandemic?
Highly or somewhat affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

	Aged 18-29	Aged 30-49	Aged 50-64	Aged 65-79
China	92%	87%	84%	-
Brazil	89%	90%	92%	87%
Sweden	67%	61%	70%	85%
South Africa	91%	91%	82%	-
Russia	79%	76%	76%	80%
India	88%	90%	82%	-
USA	76%	71%	68%	64%
UK	75%	72%	70%	61%
Australia	64%	61%	49%	44%
Germany	46%	28%	25%	16%

The marked squares are respectively positive and negative significance by age and country, as each age category is tested if it is significantly smaller or larger than the national total. The colour purple means it is significantly bigger than the total and orange significantly smaller.

In what way are you affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic?

Sweden



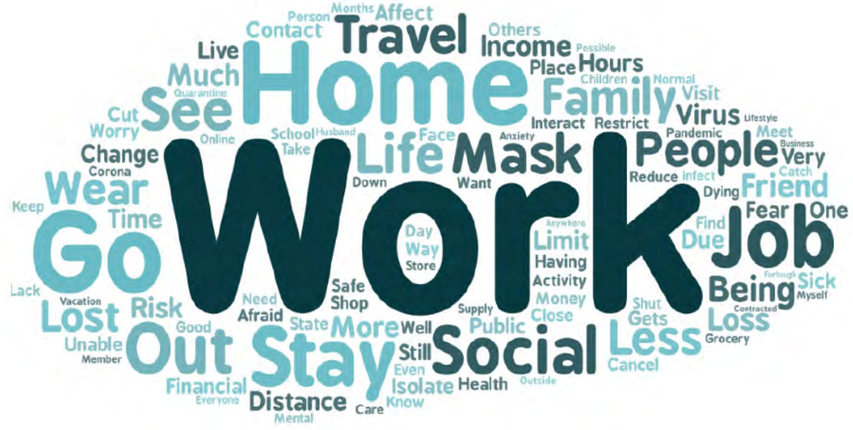
Australia



UK



USA



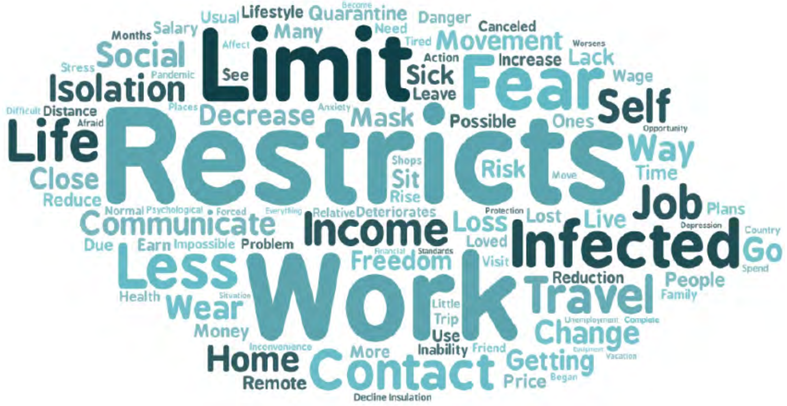
Germany



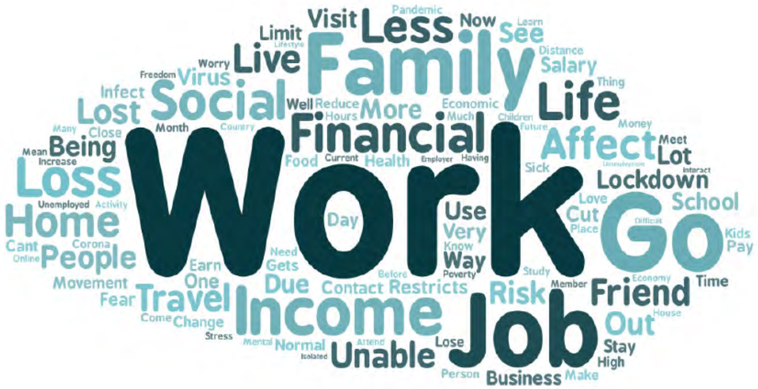
BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

In what way are you affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic?

Russia



South Africa



India


Affect
Work
Home
Go
Job
Loss
Life
Financial
Social
Economic
Corona
Travel
Very
Due
Out
Stay
Lockdown
Less
Fear
Crisis
Mental
Difficult
Change
Lock
Stress
Lost
Money
Income
Restrict
Reduce
Health
Infected
Meet
Busy
Time
Face
Lot
Contact
Good
Increase
Available
Getting
Live
Etc
More
Pandemic
Normal
Positive
Price
Effect
Safe
Close
Cant
Stop
Feel
Covid
Thing
Disturb
Activity
Unable
Months
Need
Down
Economy
One
Secured
Food
Scare
Daily
Cut
Risk
Issue
Outside
Restrict
Make
Distance
Movement
Day
Being
Even
Virus
Take
Condition
Family
Follow
Salary
People
Danger
Many
Country
Friend
Problem
Situation
Fear
Less
Work
Job
Way
Badly
Change
Lock
Stress
Lost
Money
Income
Reduce
World
Insecure
Physical
Uncertainty
Decreased
Crisis
Mental
Difficult
Lock
Stress
Lost
Money
Income
Reduce
World
Insecure
Deceased
House
Infected
Meet
Face
Lot
Contact
Time
Due
Home
Go
Out
Health
Infected
Meet
Very
Face
Lot
Busy
Economic
Feel
Cant
Stop
Covid
Thing
Food
Need
Unable
Months
Disturb
Activity
Need
Down
Economy
One
Secured
Essential
Much
Effect
Safe
Close

In what way or ways are you prepared to change the way you live in order to prevent the spread of infection in a pandemic?



Sweden



Australia



UK

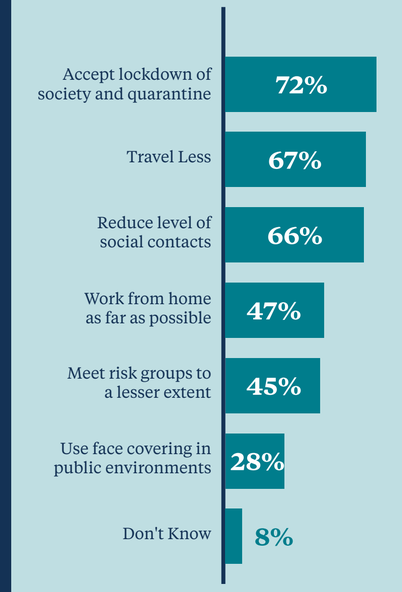


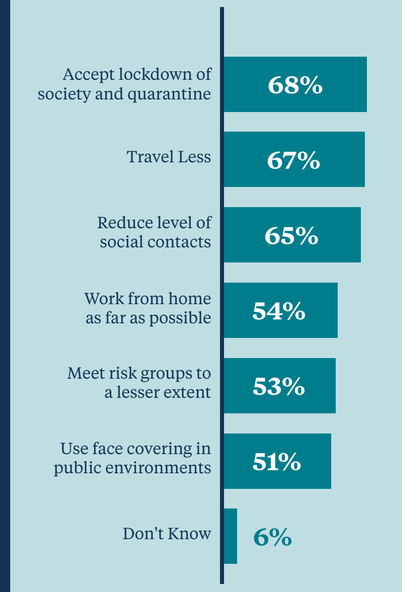
USA

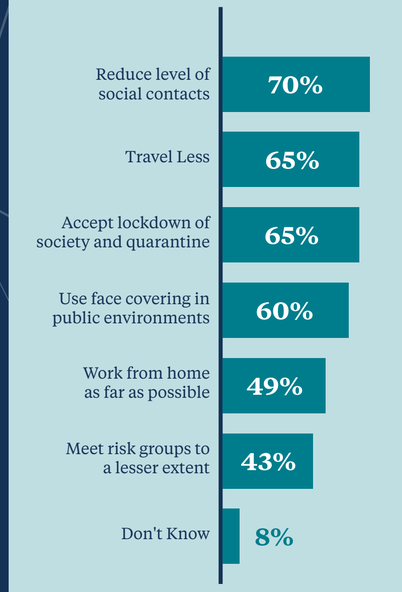


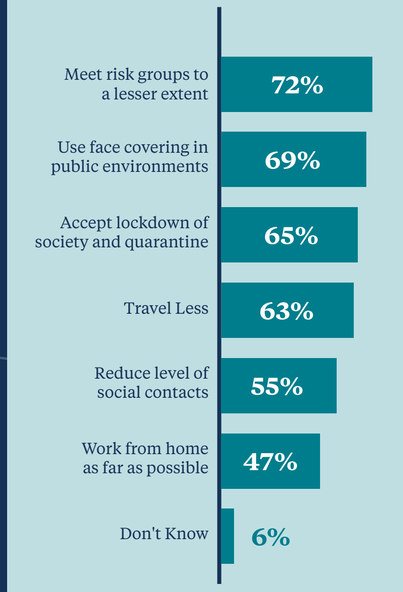
Germany











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In what way or ways are you prepared to change the way you live in order to prevent the spread of infection in a pandemic?



Russia

- Accept lockdown of society and quarantine: 62%
- Use face covering in public environments: 62%
- Meet risk groups to a lesser extent: 55%
- Reduce level of social contacts: 52%
- Work from home as far as possible: 50%
- Travel Less: 47%
- Don't Know: 6%



South Africa

- Reduce level of social contacts: 75%
- Work from home as far as possible: 74%
- Use face covering in public environments: 70%
- Travel Less: 69%
- Accept lockdown of society and quarantine: 68%
- Meet risk groups to a lesser extent: 43%
- Don't Know: 1%



India

- Work from home as far as possible: 80%
- Use face covering in public environments: 76%
- Travel Less: 76%
- Reduce level of social contacts: 75%
- Accept lockdown of society and quarantine: 69%
- Meet risk groups to a lesser extent: 58%
- Don't Know: 1%



Brazil

- Use face covering in public environments: 83%
- Accept lockdown of society and quarantine: 79%
- Work from home as far as possible: 72%
- Reduce level of social contacts: 69%
- Meet risk groups to a lesser extent: 59%
- Travel Less: 51%
- Don't Know: 1%



China

- Meet risk groups to a lesser extent: 80%
- Travel Less: 68%
- Reduce level of social contacts: 61%
- Accept lockdown of society and quarantine: 44%
- Work from home as far as possible: 40%
- Use face covering in public environments: 14%
- Don't Know: 2%

BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Climate change



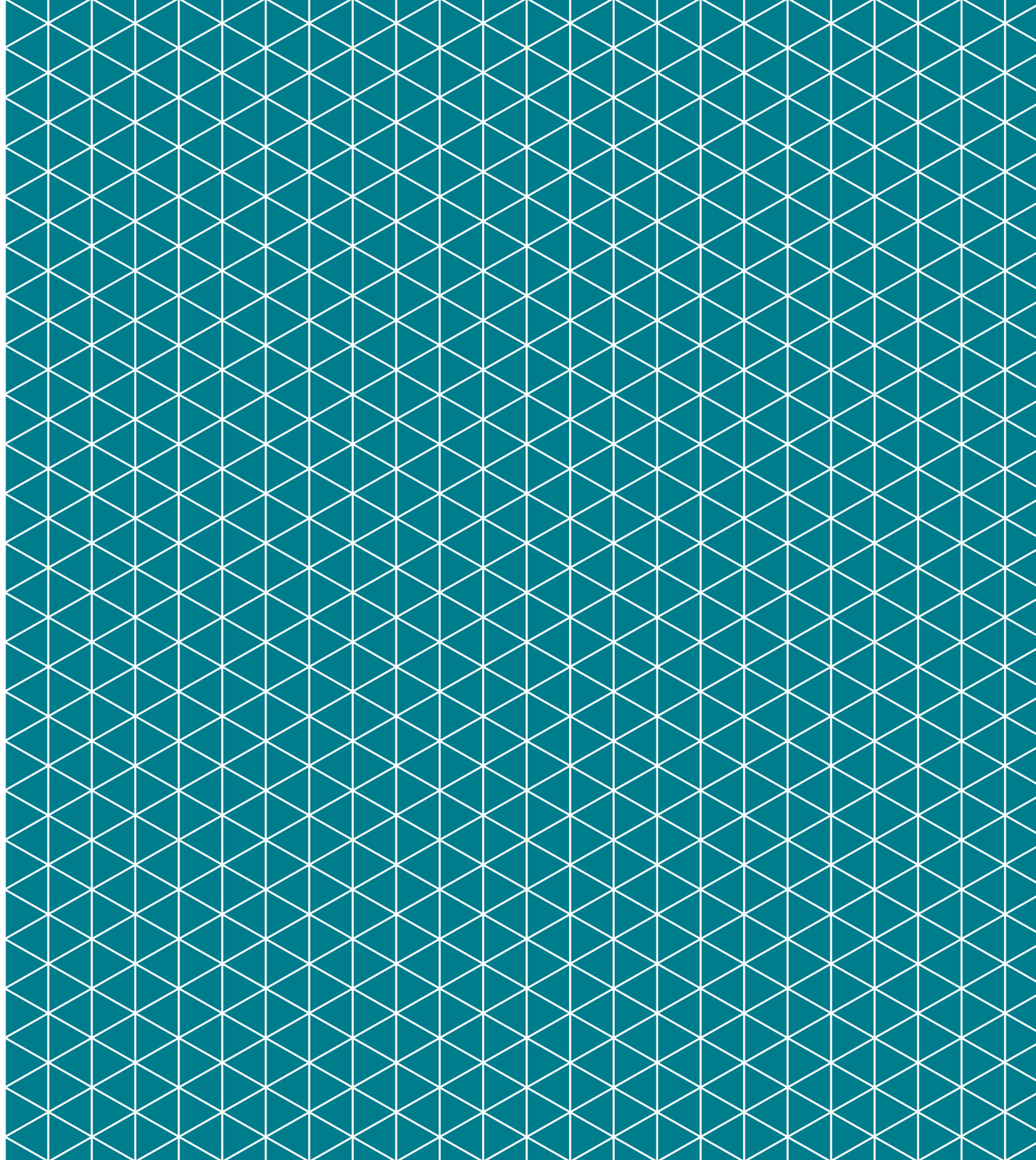
Summary

HOW AFFECTED PEOPLE ARE BY CLIMATE CHANGE

- In half of the countries, a **majority** respond that they are **affected** by ongoing climate change; this is the case for people in India, Brazil, China, South Africa and Russia, all of whom say to a greater extent than those in other countries that they are affected.
- In six of the countries, **women** say to a greater extent that they are **affected** by ongoing climate change; this is the case in Sweden, the UK, Australia, Germany, Brazil and Russia.
- There are no specific trends in how affected people are when it comes to age.

HOW PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED

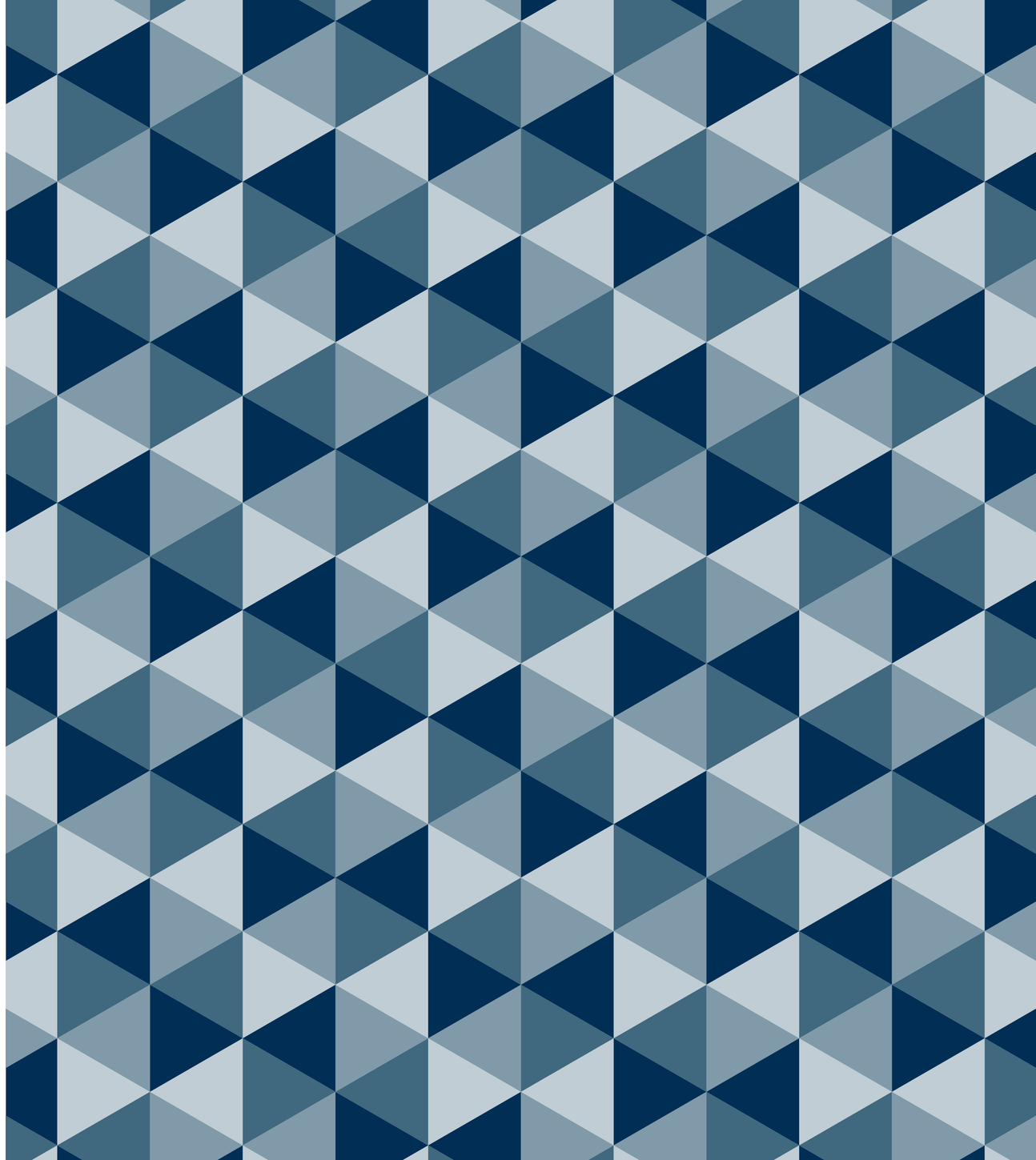
- Those affected by ongoing climate change often mention **changes in the weather** in the form of high temperatures, pollution, droughts/fires and floods.



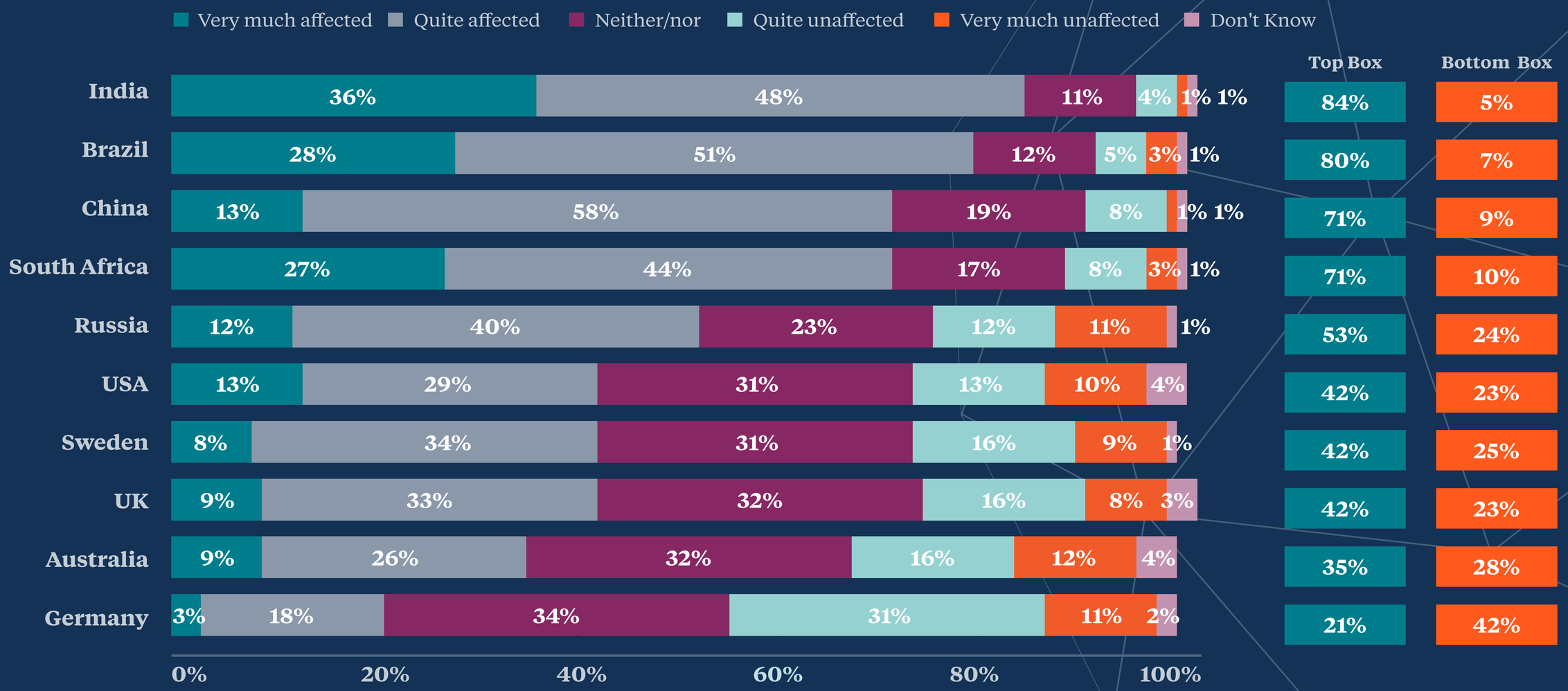
Summary

PREVENTING FUTURE CLIMATE DISASTERS

- A large **majority** in all countries are prepared to make **changes** in their current way of life in order to avoid climate disasters in the future.
- The extent differs slightly between the countries. People in Brazil, India and South Africa express most strongly that we should make significant changes, while people in the USA, Australia and Germany do not think so to the same extent.
- There are no huge differences in terms of gender or age in the countries. There are some significant differences, such as **women** in Sweden, Australia and Germany believing to a greater extent that we should try to make **significant changes** that affect our current standard of living, as do those aged **18-29 in the USA and Russia.**



How affected or unaffected would you say that you are by the following:
Ongoing climate change



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In what way are you affected by ongoing climate change?

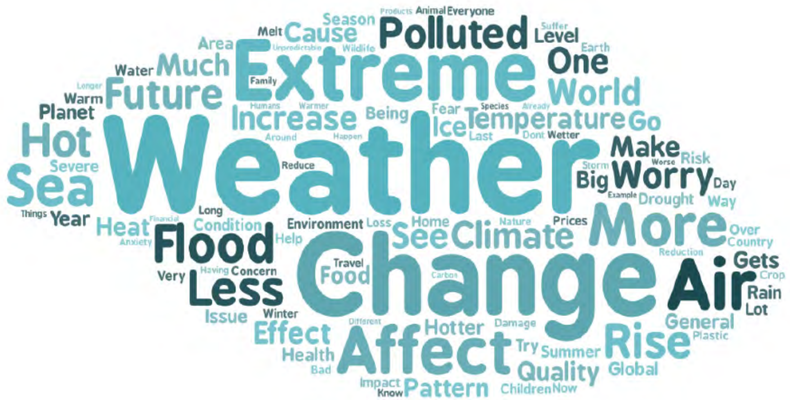
Sweden



Australia



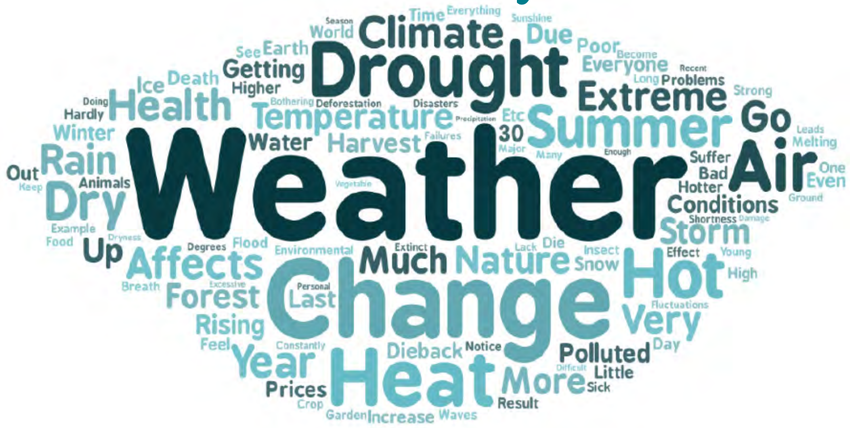
UK



USA



Germany



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In what way are you affected by ongoing climate change?

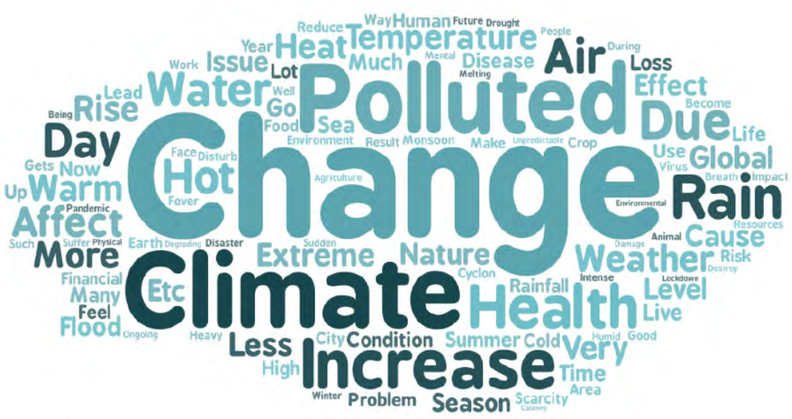
Russia



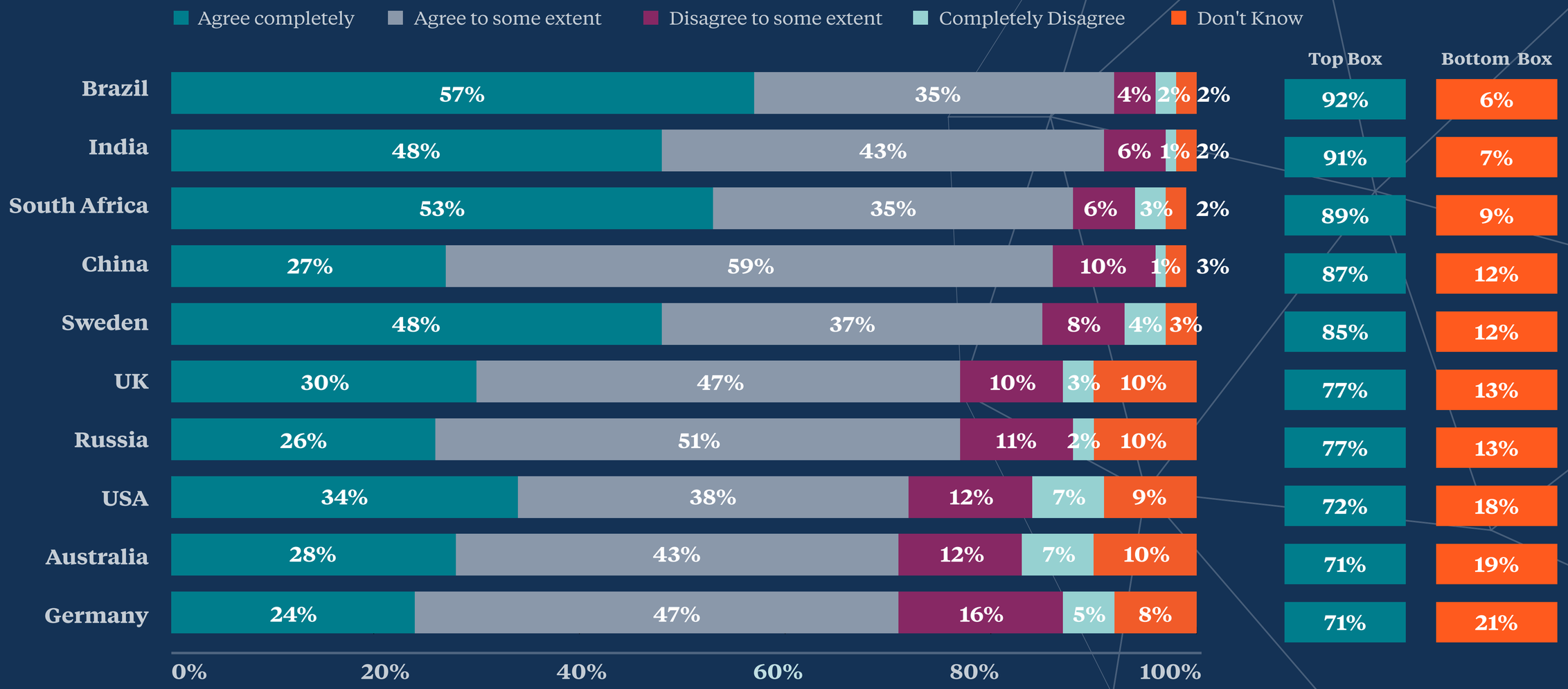
South Africa



India


Change
Climate
Polluted
Health
Increase
Rain
Weather
Temperature
Heat
Water
Extreme
Nature
Hot
Air
Due
Global
Effect
Loss
Day
Warm
Affect
More
Cause
Rise
Sea
Summer
Cold
Very
Less
Problem
Season
Time
Level
Live
Rainfall
Etc
Flood
Feel
Many
Financial
Gets
Up
Now
Lead
Issue
Much
Disease
Lot
Go
Food
Environment
Result
Monsoon
Make
Crop
Use
Virus
Life
Become
Resources
Risk
Lockdown
Intense
Humid
Good
Area
Scarcity
Winter
Condition
City
High
Cyclon
Earth
Ongoing
Heavy
Damage
Animal
Breath
Impact
Environmental
Sudden
Face
Disturb
Fever
Agriculture
Pandemic
Such
Suffer
Physical
Disaster
Degrades
Work
Reduce
Way
Human
Future
Drought
People
During
Year
Heat
Temperature
Air
Loss
Melting
Mental
Unpredictable
Being
Rise
Lead
Water
Polluted
Change
Rain
Day
Hot
Warm
Affect
More
Extreme
Nature
Weather
Climate
Health
Increase
Cause
Risk

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should try to prevent climate disasters that may occur in decades or centuries, even if it means making significant changes to our daily lives, affecting our current standard of living?



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

How affected or unaffected would you say that you are by the following: Highly or somewhat affected by ongoing climate change

	Sweden		UK		USA		Australia		South Africa		India		Germany		Brazil		China		Russia	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Top box	35%	50%	36%	47%	42%	42%	30%	41%	68%	74%	83%	84%	16%	26%	73%	86%	70%	73%	47%	58%

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should try to prevent climate disasters that may occur in decades or centuries, even if it means making significant changes to our daily lives, affecting our current standard of living? Agree fully or partly

	Sweden		UK		USA		Australia		South Africa		India		Germany		Brazil		China		Russia	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Top box	80%	89%	76%	78%	72%	72%	65%	77%	89%	89%	90%	92%	67%	75%	90%	93%	84%	89%	75%	79%

The marked squares are respectively positive and negative significance by age and country, as each age category is tested if it is significantly smaller or larger than the national total. The colour purple means it is significantly bigger than the total and orange significantly smaller.

The global system of governance



Summary

HUMAN ACTIONS ARE THE MAIN CAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING

- A majority in all countries agrees that human actions are the main cause of global warming. The proportion is highest in Brazil and India, and lowest in Russia and Australia.

HUMAN ACTIONS ARE THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

- The majority in all countries also agree that human actions are the main cause of the COVID-19 outbreak, although not to the same degree as they agree that this is the case for global warming.

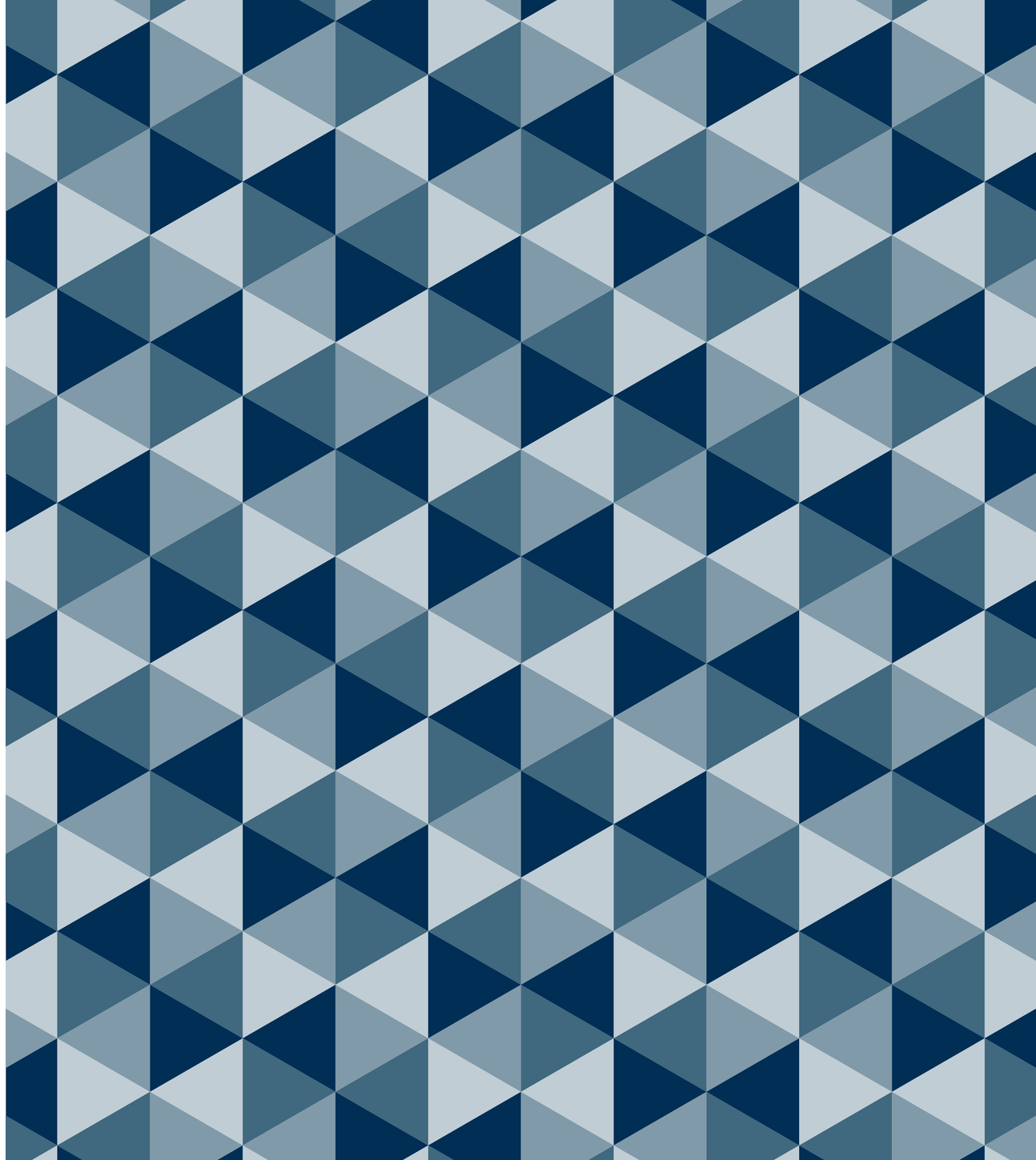
POLITICIANS ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

- The majority of people in all countries feel that politicians are not doing enough to combat climate change. Those who believe this most strongly are people in Brazil, South Africa and India, while people in Australia are least likely to believe this.

POLITICIANS ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO TACKLE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- The majority do not believe that politicians are doing enough to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 in seven of the countries.

- People in Brazil, India and China believe this most strongly, while people in Sweden, Australia and Germany are least likely to believe this. Only in Australia and Germany is there a bigger proportion who disagree with this statement than agree.



Summary

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL EVER BE USED AGAIN

- Five out of ten countries in the survey possess nuclear weapons: India, China, Russia, the UK and the USA. People living in India, China and Russia, which have nuclear weapons, believe to a greater extent that it is unlikely that nuclear weapons will ever be used again. India to a greater extent than all of the other countries, and China and Russia less than India, but to a greater extent than the rest. People in the UK end up somewhere in the middle in relation to the other countries, while people in the USA are less inclined to consider it unlikely. The USA, together with Australia and Germany, are the countries that least consider it unlikely.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD, INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WILL INCREASE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- Asked whether international collaboration is expected to increase in the years ahead as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis, the majority of respondents in India, China, South Africa and Brazil believe this to be the case, while the countries that believe it to the least extent are Russia, the USA, Germany and Australia.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD, NATIONALISM WILL INCREASE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- Asked whether nationalism will increase in the years ahead as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis, the biggest proportion in India and South Africa says that it will increase, while people in the USA are less inclined to believe this will happen.



Summary

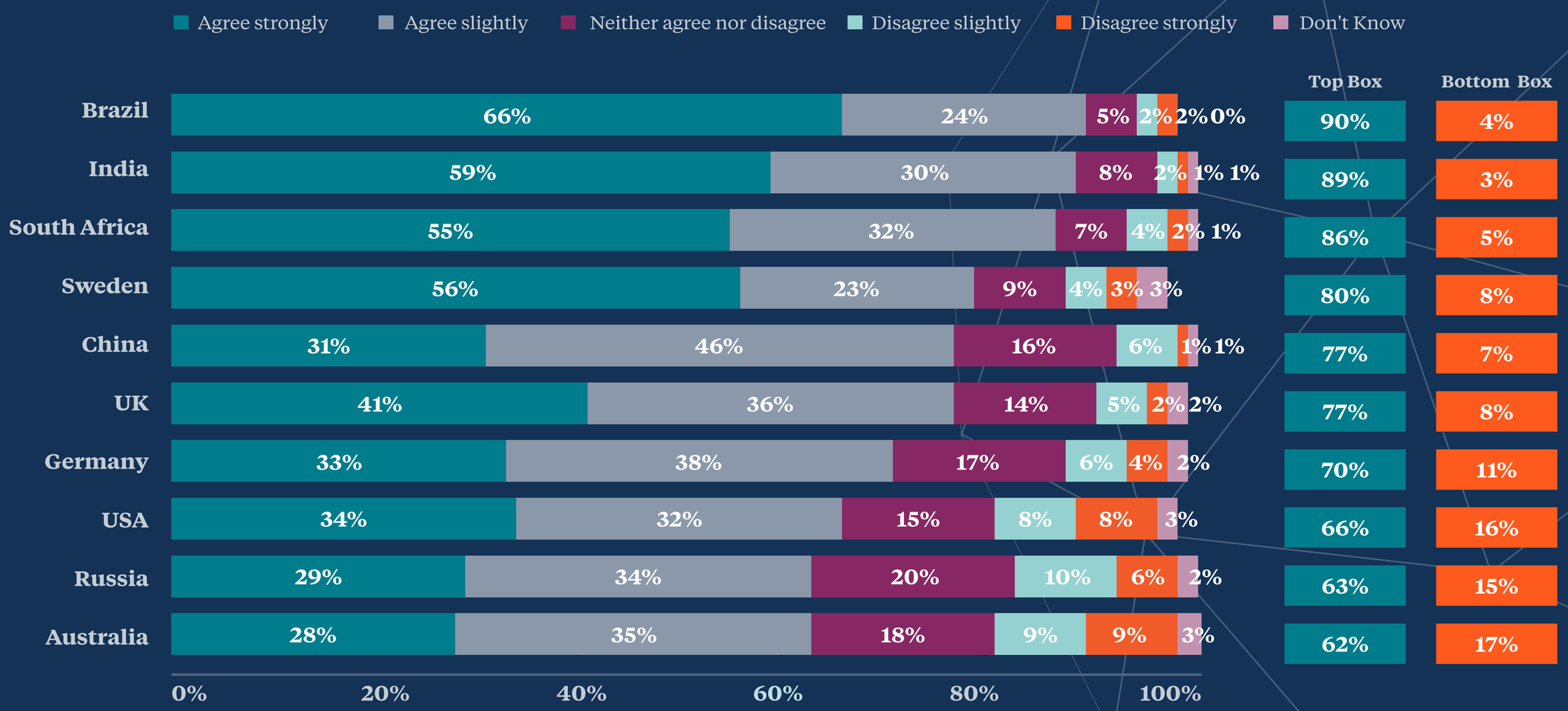
WHETHER THE UN SYSTEM HAS TO BE REFORMED IN ORDER TO BETTER MANAGE GLOBAL RISKS

- Asked to what extent they agree that the UN needs to be reformed in order to better manage global risks, the biggest proportion responding that this is necessary may be found in India, China and Brazil. The lowest proportion who believe this are in the UK and Sweden.
- In six of the countries, men are more inclined to agree that the UN has to be reformed; this is the case for men in Sweden, the USA, Australia, South Africa, Germany and Russia.

WHETHER A NEW GLOBAL SUPRANATIONAL ORGANISATION SHOULD BE CREATED FOR BINDING GLOBAL DECISIONS

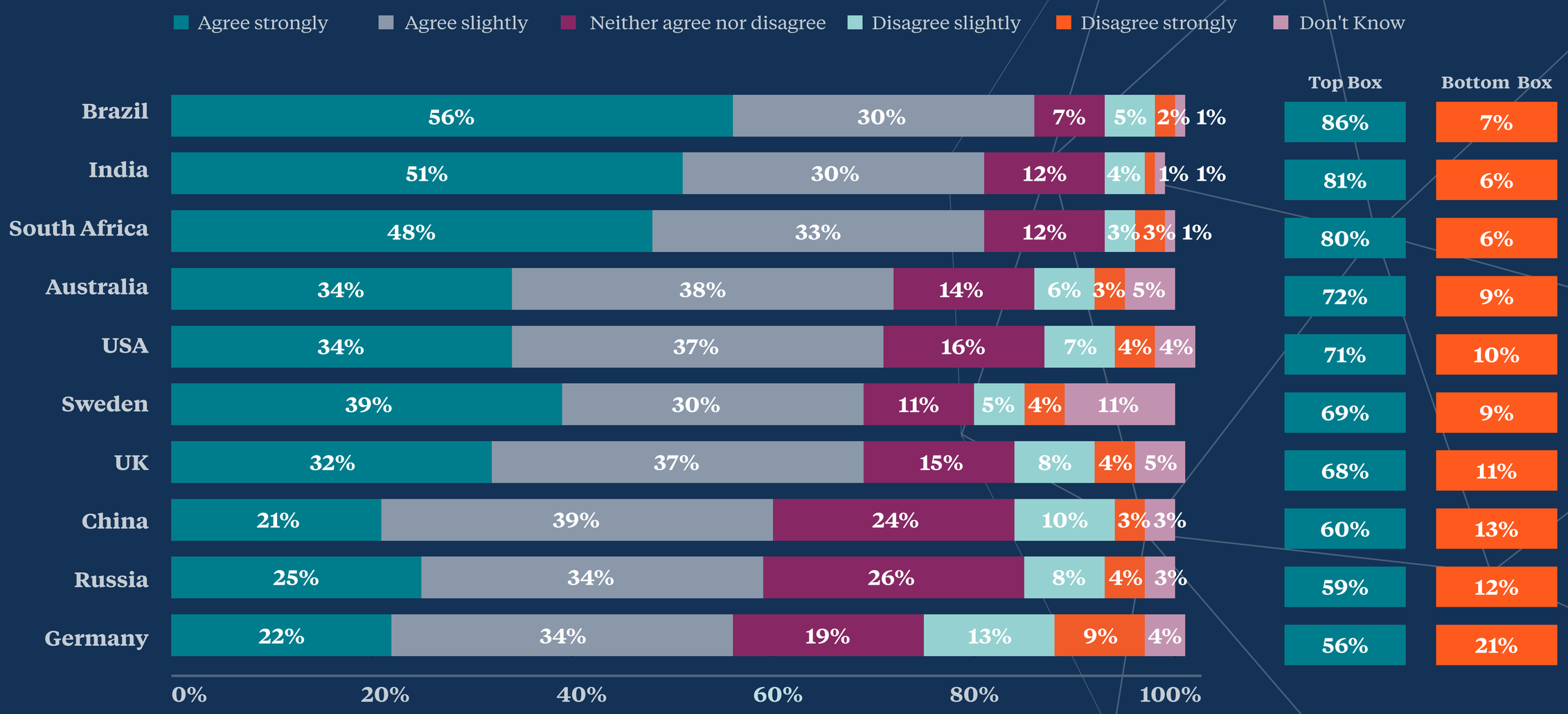
- Asked whether they agree that a new global supranational organisation should be created to make binding global decisions on how to manage risks, people in India, China and South Africa agree to a greater extent than those in other countries that a new one should be created. People in Germany, the USA and Sweden believe this to a lesser extent, although there is still a majority in these countries too.
- In five of the countries, men are more inclined to believe that one should be created. This is the case in the USA, Australia, South Africa, Germany and Russia, while men in Sweden and the UK are less inclined to believe that such an organisation should be created.
- How current international systems are able to deal with global risks today
- Asked whether or not they agree on whether the current international system is able to make the decisions required to manage global risks, more than half in Germany and Sweden say that this is not the case, while people in India and China reply that it is.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
Human actions are the main cause of global warming



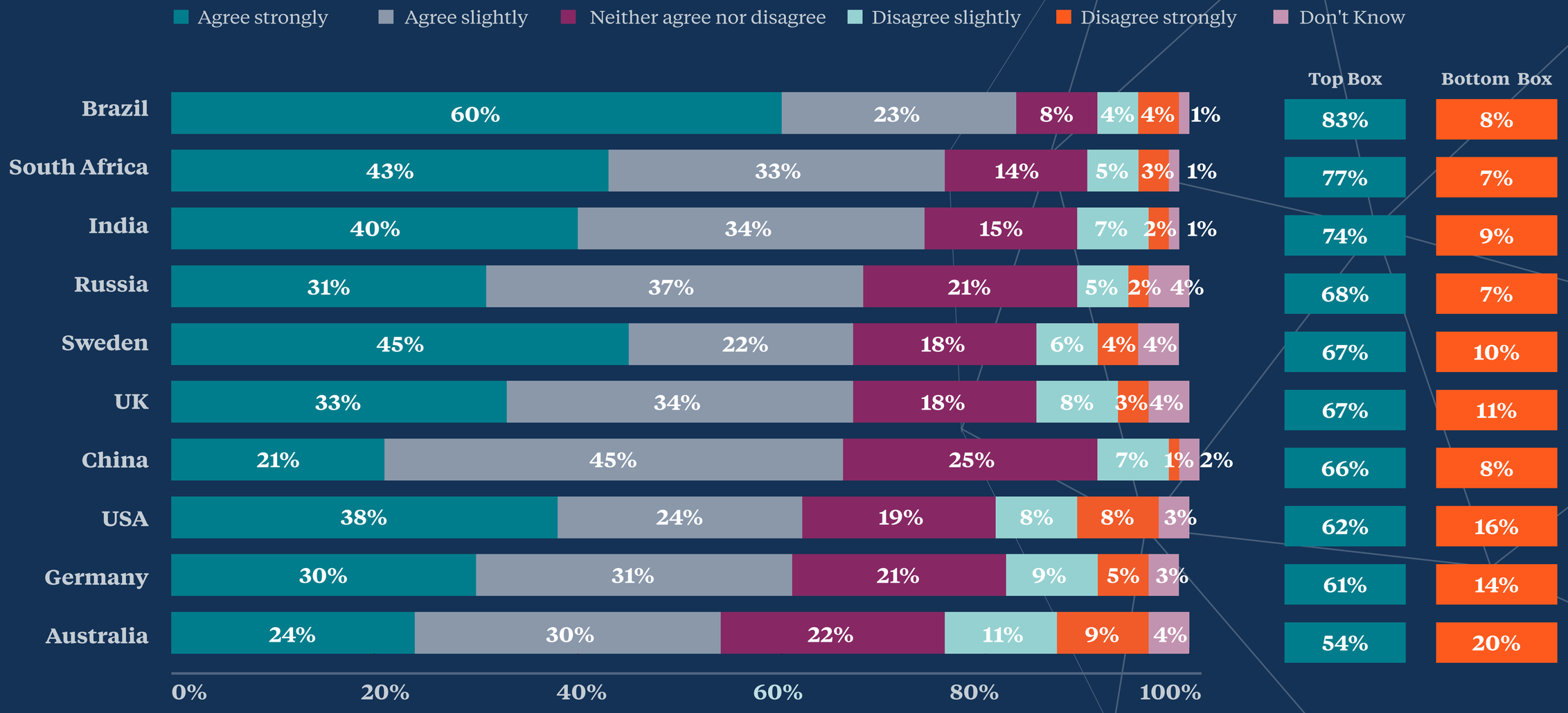
BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
Human actions are the main cause of the COVID-19 outbreak



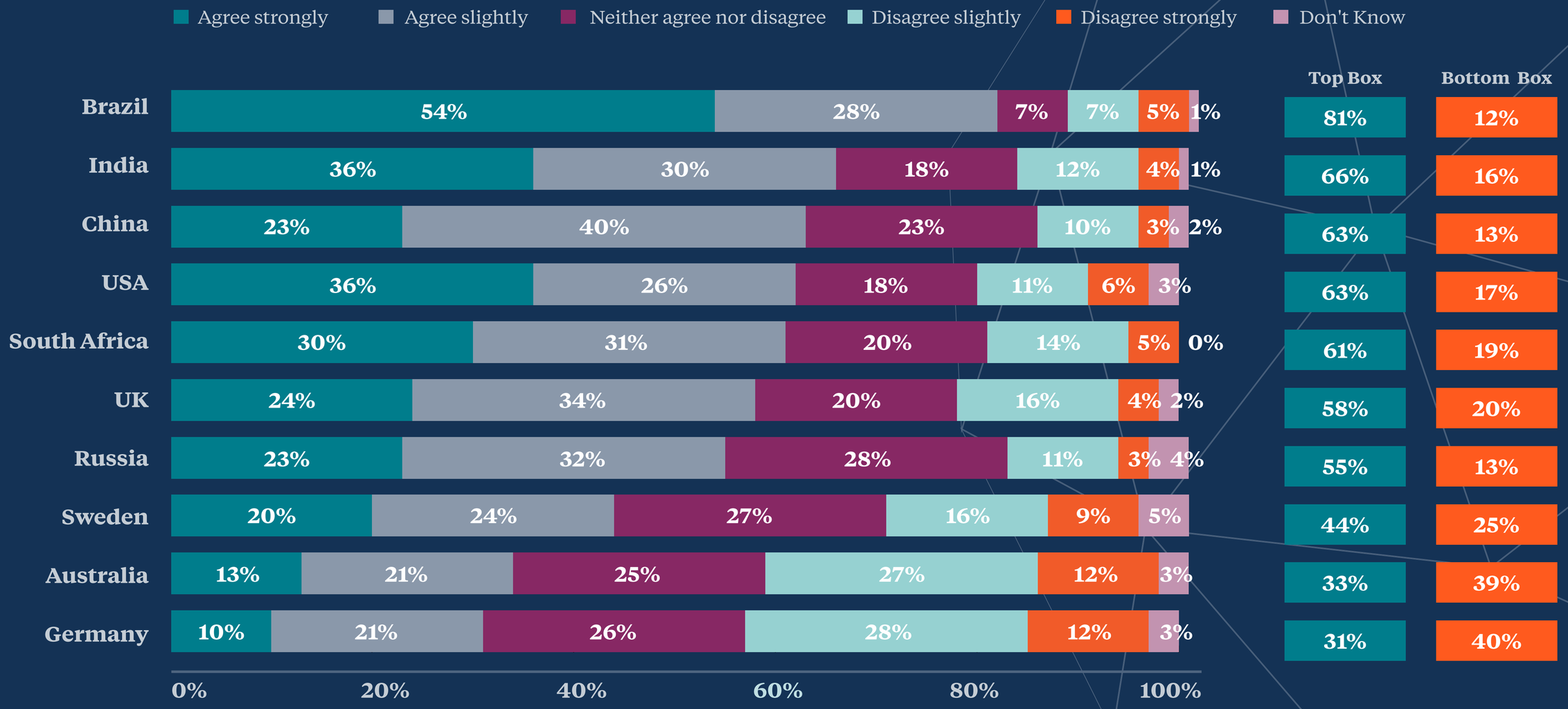
BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
Politicians are not doing enough to tackle climate change



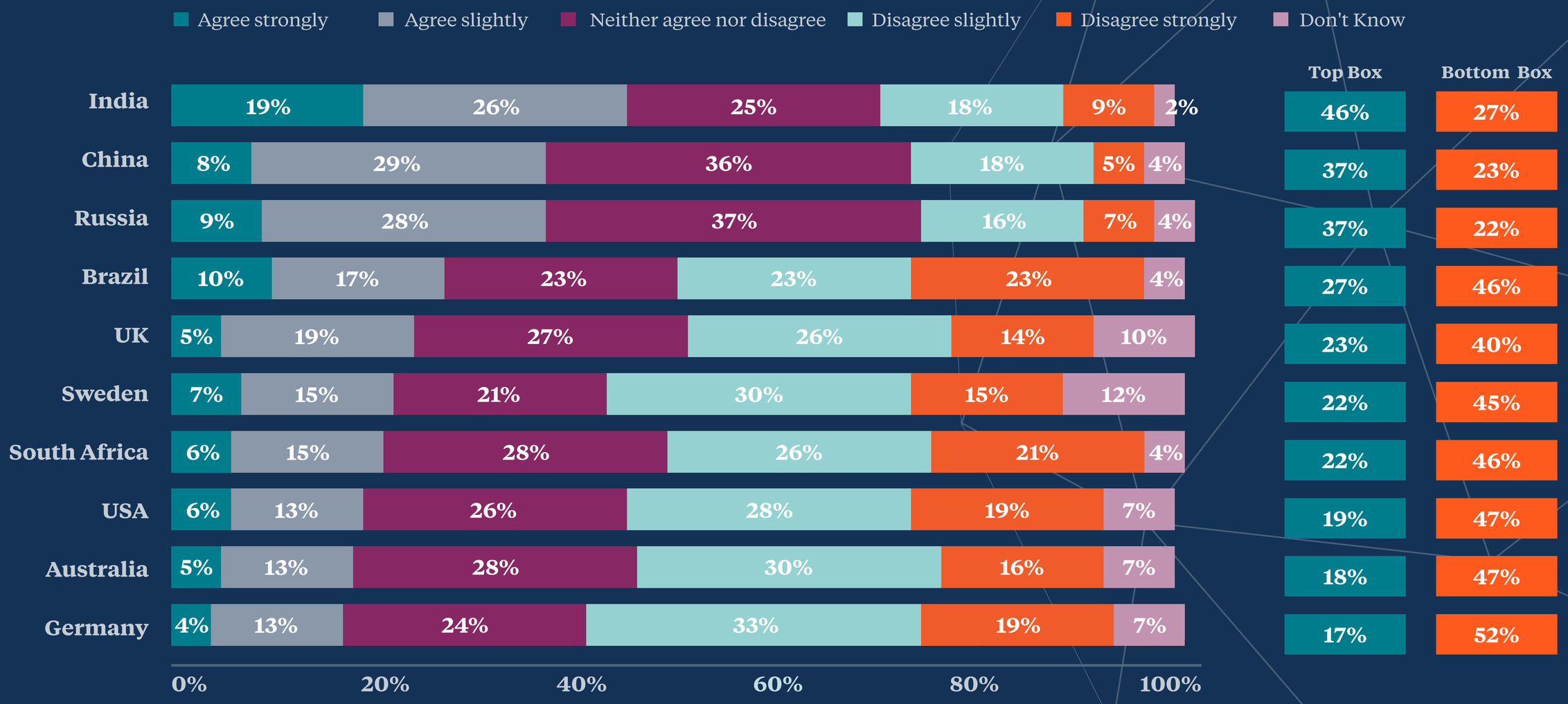
BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
Politicians are not doing enough to tackle the spread of COVID-19



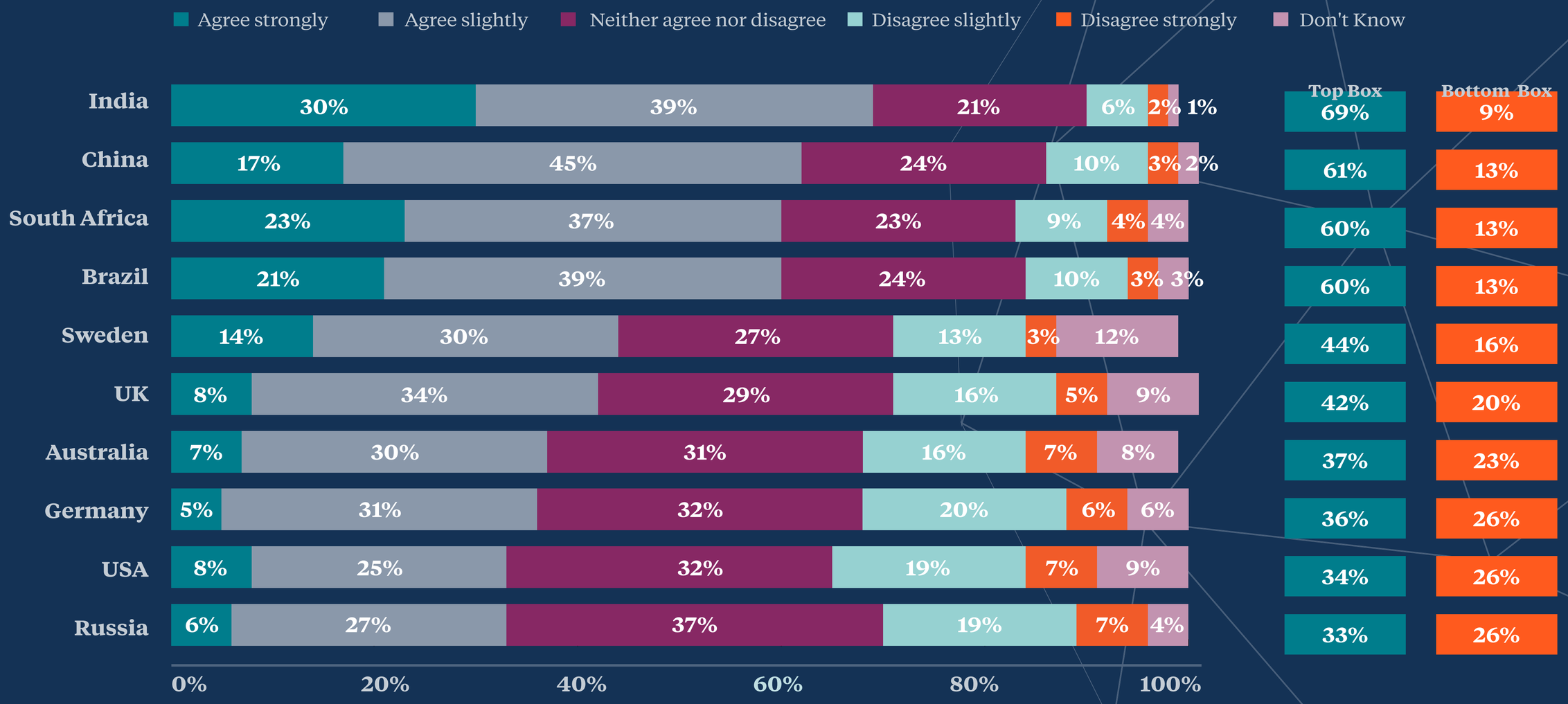
BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
It is unlikely that nuclear weapons will ever be used again



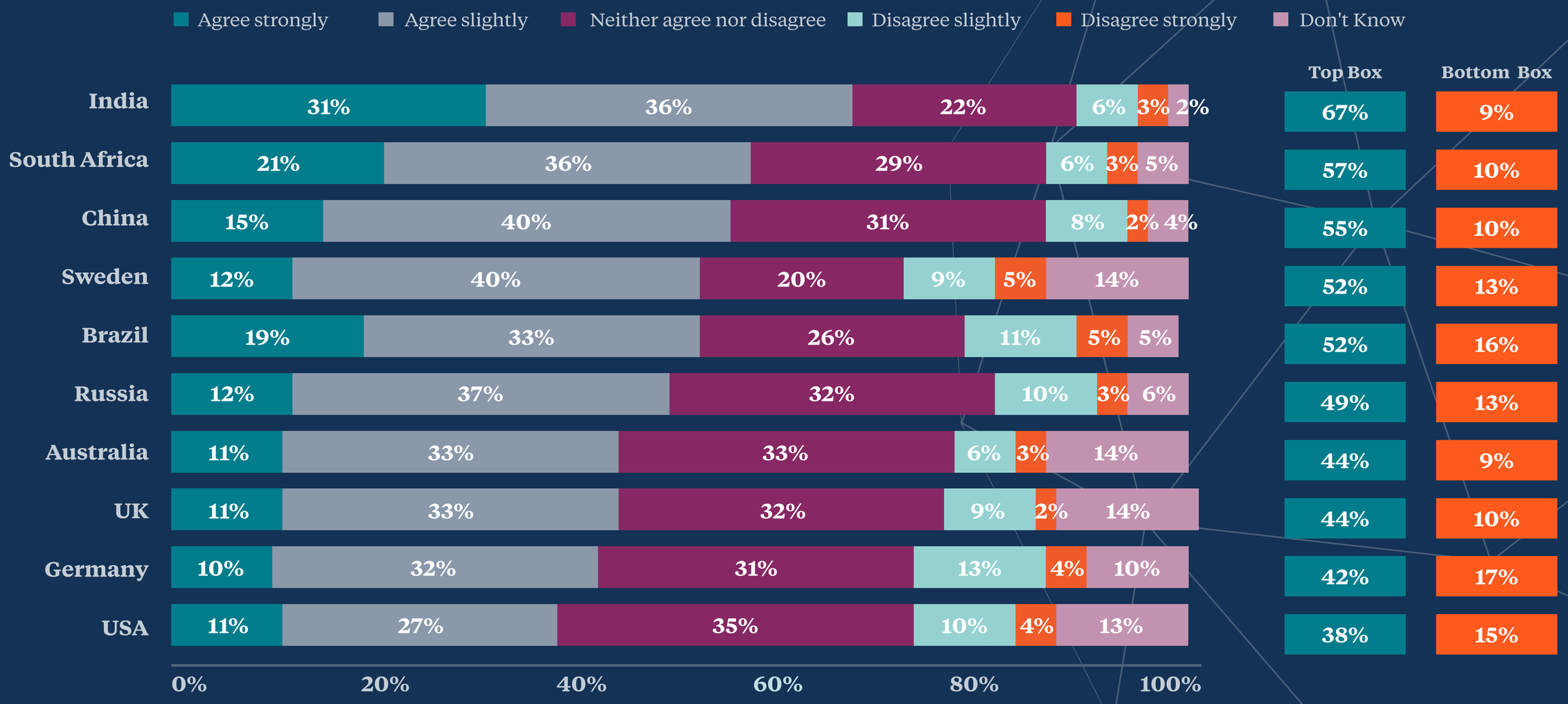
BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
In the years ahead, international collaboration will increase as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis



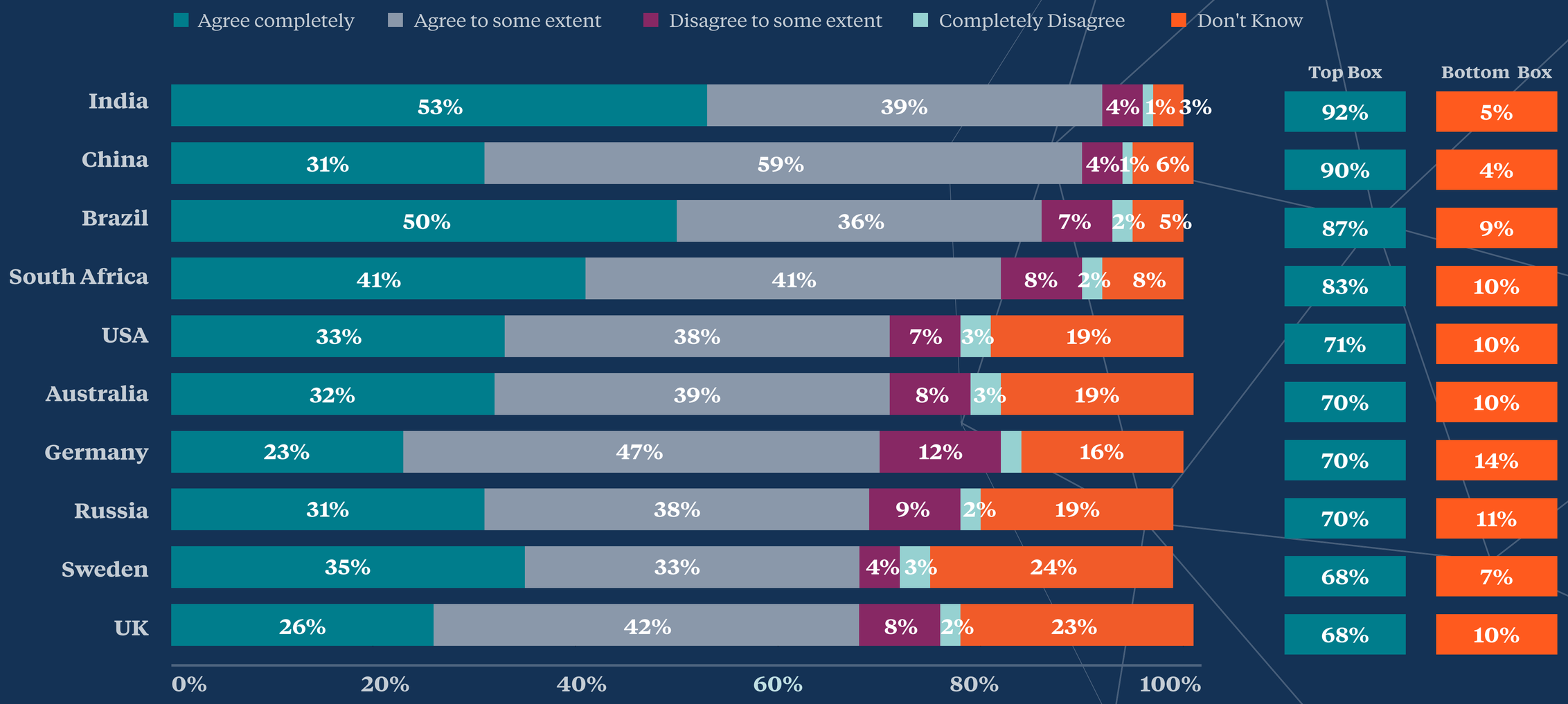
BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
In the years ahead, nationalism will increase as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

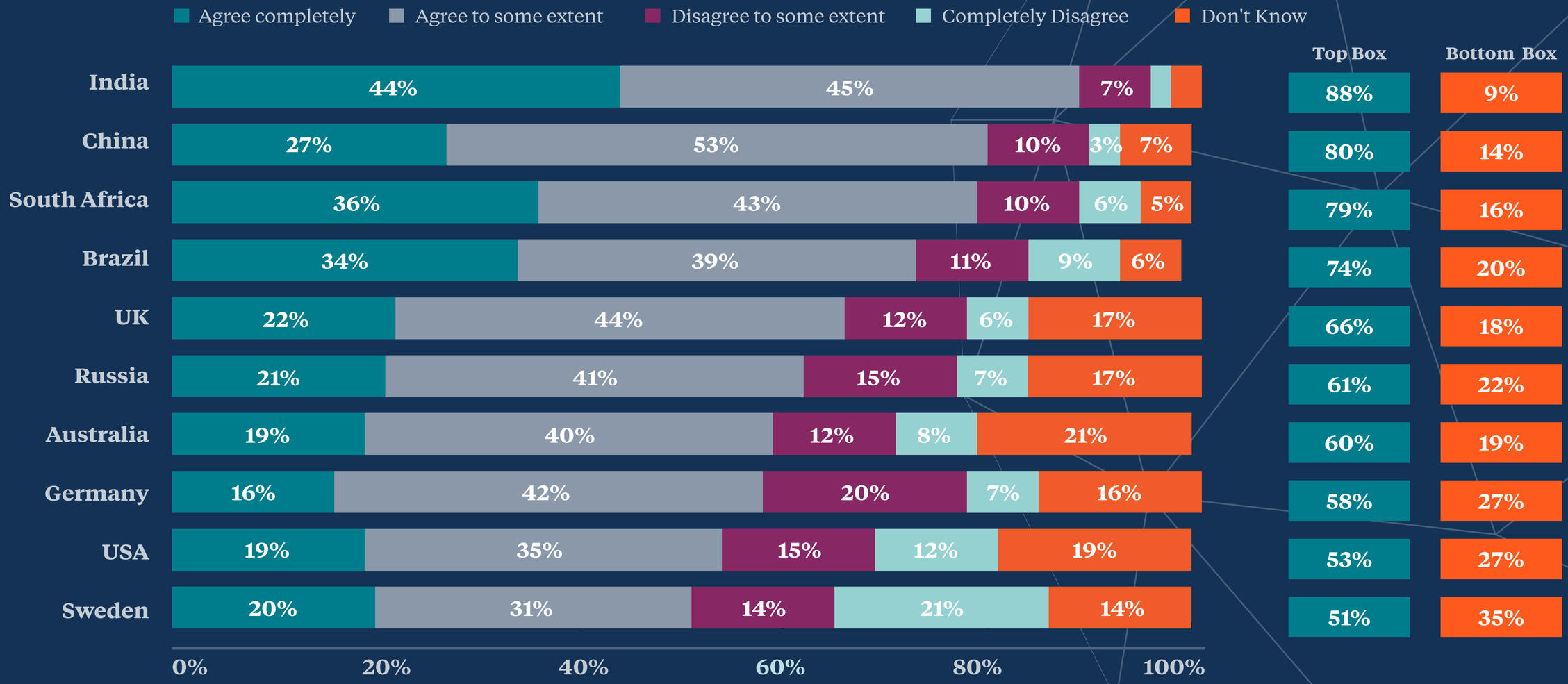
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the UN has to be reformed in order to better manage global risks?



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

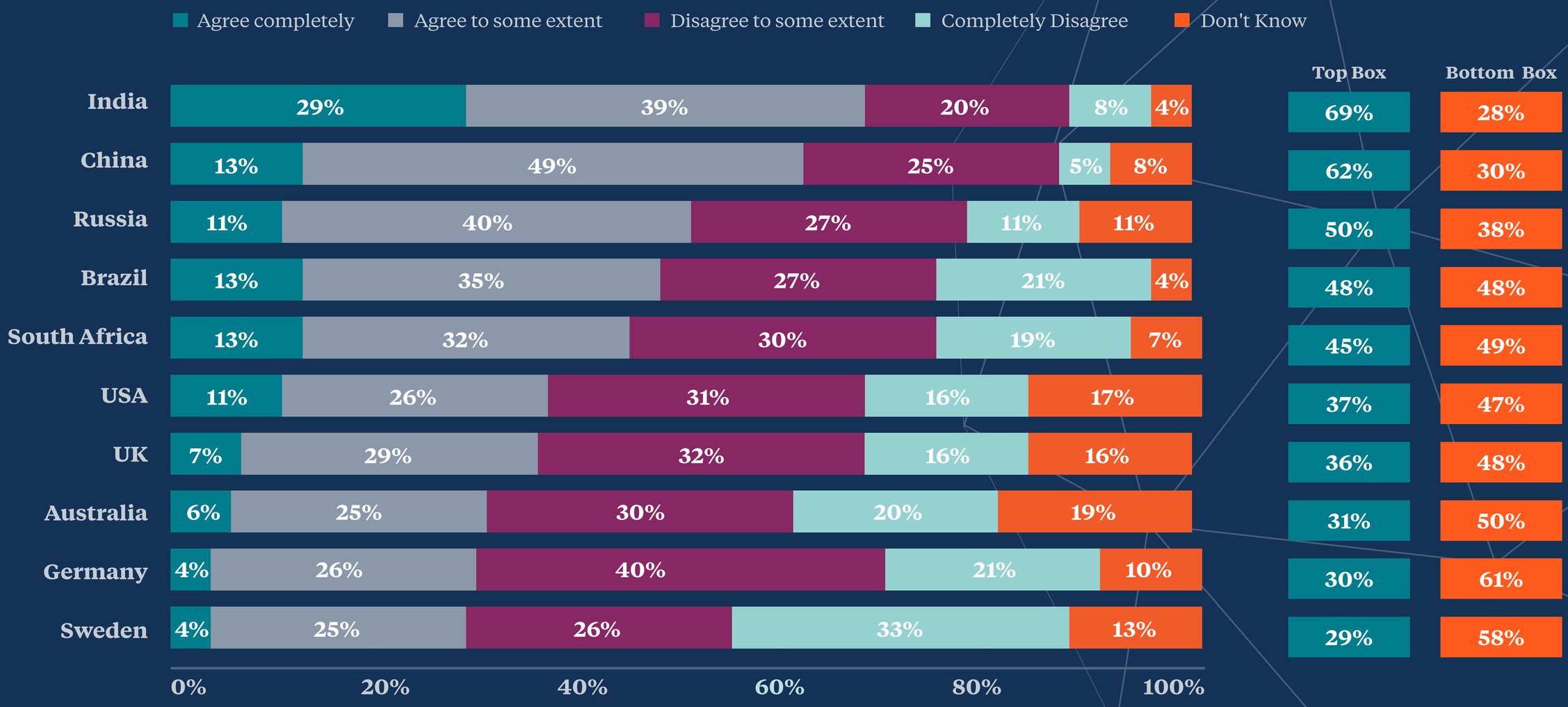
To what extent do you agree that a new global supranational organisation should be created to make binding global decisions on how to manage global risks?

A global supranational organisation is an international body that has been mandated by Member States to take binding decisions on certain defined issues. It does not replace national governments, but places global interests above the interests of nation states.



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the fact that the current international system, with almost 200 independent states, is capable of taking the decisions necessary to manage global risks?



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the UN has to be reformed in order to better manage global risks?
Agree fully or partly

	Sweden		UK		USA		Australia		South Africa		India		Germany		Brazil		China		Russia	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Top box	75%	61%	70%	66%	76%	66%	74%	67%	85%	80%	92%	91%	77%	64%	87%	86%	90%	90%	78%	62%

To what extent do you agree that a new global supranational organisation should be created to make binding global decisions on how to manage global risks?
Agree fully or partly

	Sweden		UK		USA		Australia		South Africa		India		Germany		Brazil		China		Russia	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Top box	51%	51%	63%	68%	56%	52%	56%	63%	79%	79%	90%	87%	61%	55%	70%	77%	80%	80%	78%	62%

The marked squares are respectively positive and negative significance by age and country, as each age category is tested if it is significantly smaller or larger than the national total. The colour purple means it is significantly bigger than the total and orange significantly smaller.

Allocation of responsibility



Summary

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with climate change, the population in six out of ten countries replies that existing global organisations are most appropriate, while four out of ten countries believe that a new global supranational organisation is most appropriate for dealing with this problem. The countries that mention a **new global supranational organisation** first of all are Australia, the UK (equal numbers believe that a new and an existing organisation are appropriate), South Africa and India.
- The USA is the country that responds to the lowest extent that a supranational organisation is most appropriate.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SUCH AS POLLUTION

- The general public in seven countries believe that existing global organisations are most appropriate for dealing with environmental issues such as pollution, while three out of ten countries respond that a new global supranational organisation would be most appropriate. The countries that respond that existing ones are most appropriate are Sweden, the UK, the USA, Germany, Russia, Brazil and China, while **Australia, South Africa and India** respond that a **new organisation would be most appropriate.**

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE OR CONFLICTS

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with politically motivated violence and conflicts, nine out of ten countries respond that existing global organisations are most appropriate for this. Only India responds that a new global supranational organisation would be more appropriate.

Summary

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS)

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with weapons of mass destruction, **nine out of ten countries** believe that **existing global organisations are most appropriate for this.** India is the only country where the majority responds that a new global supranational actor is most appropriate.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS

- The population in all countries except India believes that **existing global organisations** are most appropriate for dealing with **epidemics and pandemics.**

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TECHNOLOGIES

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with Artificial Intelligence and other potentially dangerous technologies, six out of ten countries respond that a **new global supranational organisation** is most appropriate (Australia, Russia, South Africa, India, Brazil, China)
- Three out of ten countries, **Sweden, the UK and Germany**, respond in the first instance that **existing global organisations** are most appropriate.
- **The USA** responds that **they themselves** are most appropriate. One in four Americans believes that they themselves are most appropriate, with a corresponding figure for Russia of one in twenty and for China of one in ten.

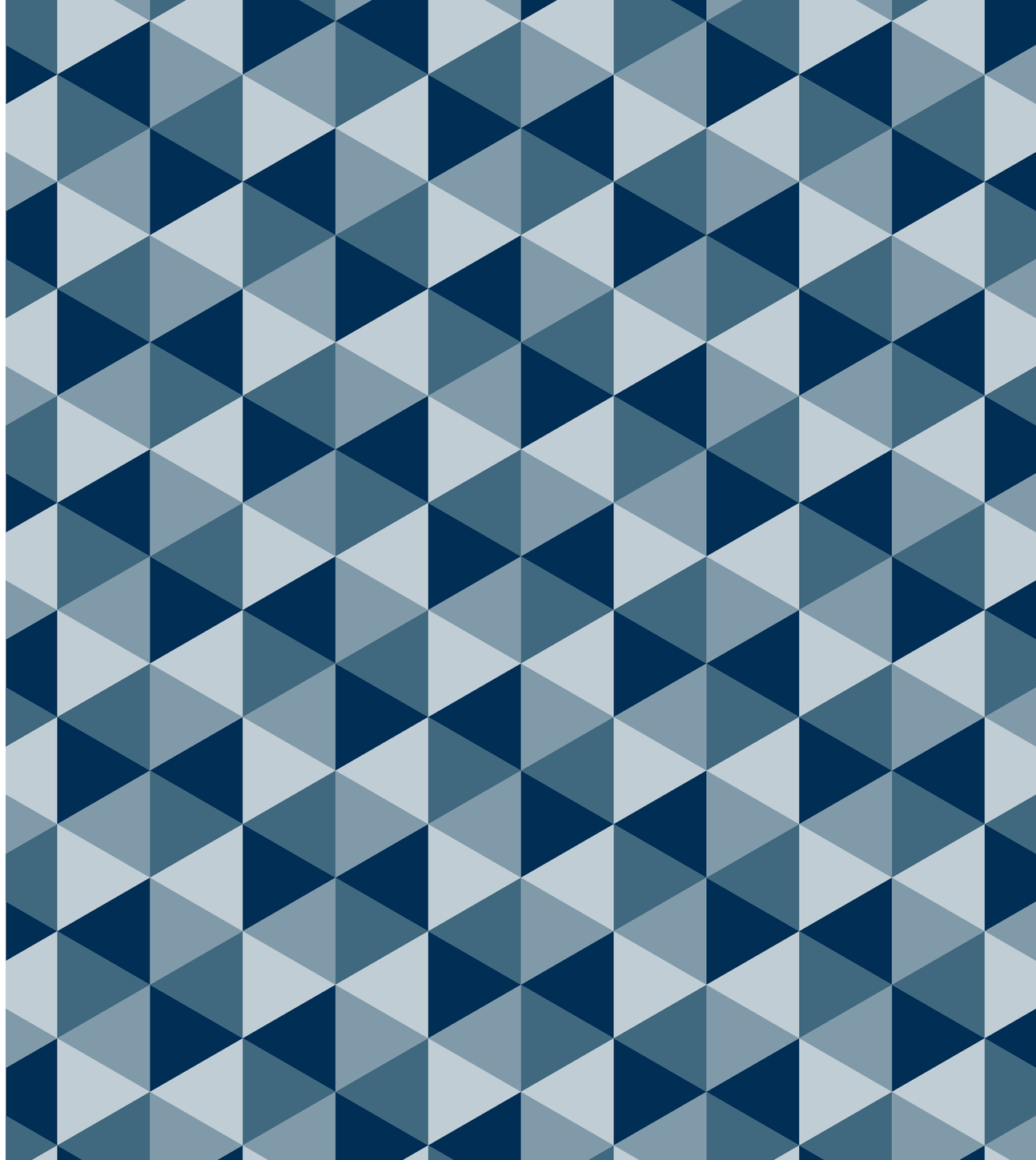
Summary

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH POPULATION GROWTH

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for managing population growth, eight out of ten countries respond that existing global organisations are most appropriate. South Africa and India respond primarily that their own country is most appropriate.
- In general, there is consistently a bigger proportion in each state that believes that their own state is appropriate for dealing with this issue.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH EXTREME POVERTY

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for tackling extreme poverty, nine out of ten countries respond that existing global organisations are most appropriate. India replies that it is primarily their own state.



Most appropriate for dealing with climate change



Sweden

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	45%
A new global supranational organisation	36%
Your nation state	5%
Global companies	5%
International courts	2%
USA	1%
China	0%
Russia	0%
Other	5%



Australia

A new global supranational organisation	31%
Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	31%
Your nation state	14%
Global companies	8%
International courts	3%
China	3%
USA	2%
Russia	1%
Other	7%



UK

A new global supranational organisation	36%
Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	36%
Your nation state	10%
Global companies	8%
International courts	3%
China	2%
USA	2%
Russia	1%
Other	3%



USA

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	33%
A new global supranational organisation	27%
USA	20%
Global companies	9%
International courts	2%
China	1%
Russia	1%
Other	1%



Germany

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	40%
A new global supranational organisation	33%
Your nation state	8%
Global companies	8%
China	2%
USA	2%
International courts	2%
Russia	1%
Other	4%

BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with climate change



Russia





South Africa





India





Brazil





China



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with environmental issues such as pollution



Sweden



Australia



UK



USA



Germany











BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with environmental issues such as pollution



Russia

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	40%
A new global supranational organisation	34%
Global companies	12%
Russia	5%
International courts	3%
China	3%
USA	1%
Other	2%



South Africa

A new global supranational organisation	31%
Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	28%
Your nation state	17%
Global companies	12%
International courts	5%
USA	3%
China	1%
Russia	1%
Other	2%



India

A new global supranational organisation	31%
Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	28%
Your nation state	19%
Global companies	10%
USA	4%
China	4%
International courts	3%
Russia	1%
Other	1%



Brazil

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	39%
A new global supranational organisation	27%
Your nation state	14%
Global companies	10%
International courts	5%
China	2%
USA	2%
Russia	0%
Other	2%



China

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	48%
A new global supranational organisation	30%
China	9%
Global companies	5%
USA	3%
International courts	3%
Russia	1%
Other	0%

BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with politically motivated violence or conflicts



Sweden



Australia



UK



USA

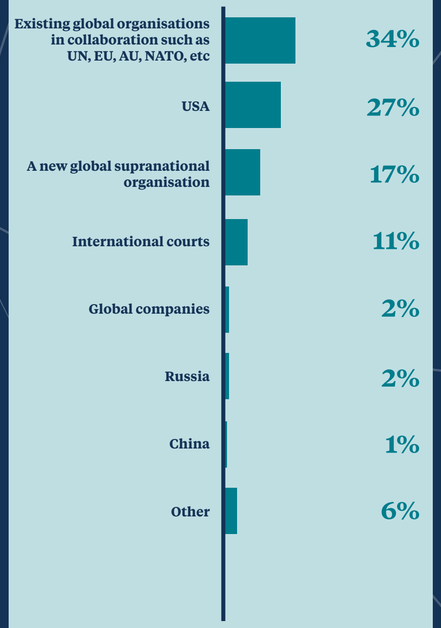


Germany











BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with politically motivated violence or conflicts



Russia



South Africa



India



Brazil



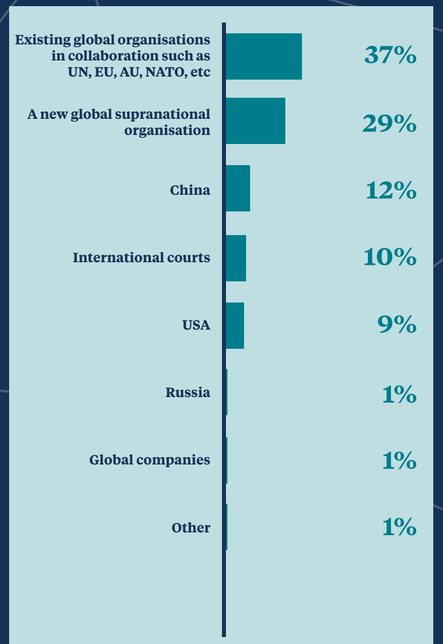
China











BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with weapons of mass destruction



Sweden



Australia



UK



USA

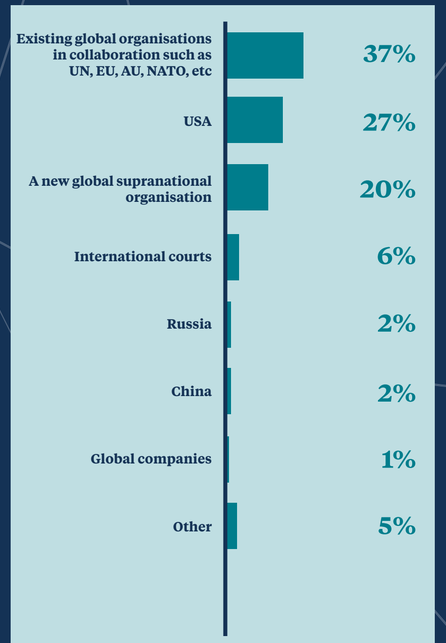


Germany











BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with weapons of mass destruction



Russia





South Africa





India





Brazil





China



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with epidemics and pandemics



Sweden



Australia



UK



USA

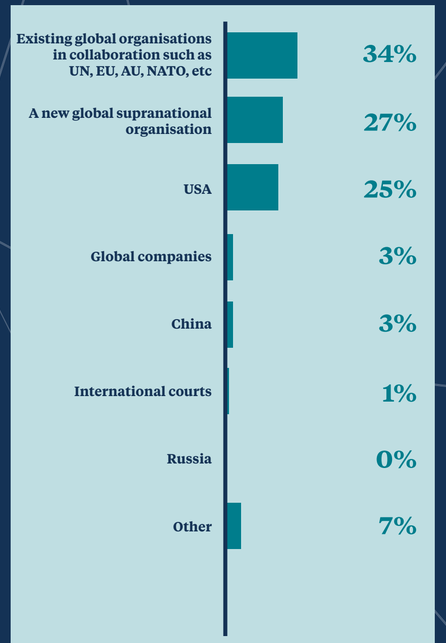


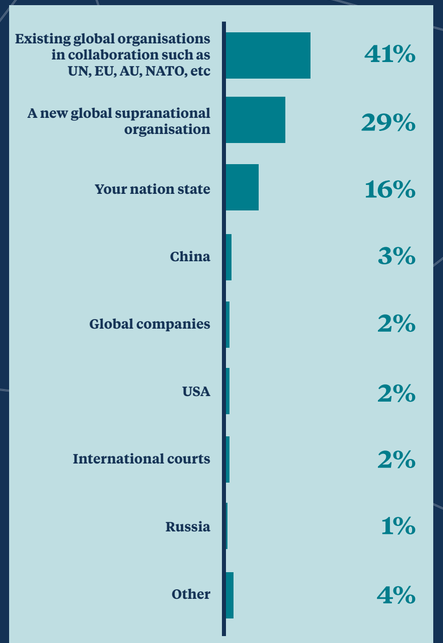
Germany











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Most appropriate for dealing with epidemics and pandemics



Russia



South Africa



India



Brazil



China











BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with AI and other potentially dangerous technologies



Sweden



Australia



UK



USA



Germany











BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with AI and other potentially dangerous technologies



Russia



South Africa



India



Brazil



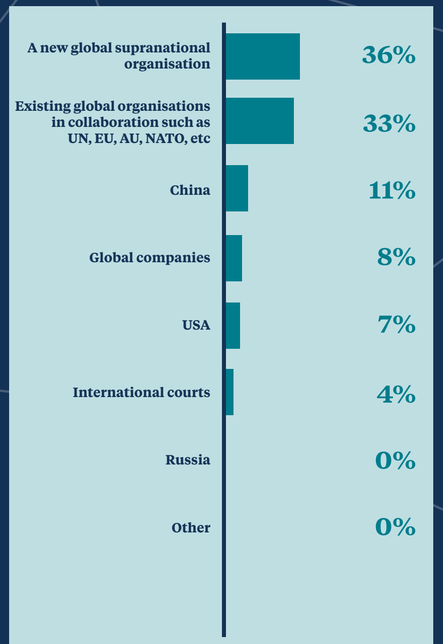
China











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Most appropriate for dealing with population growth



Sweden



Australia



UK



USA

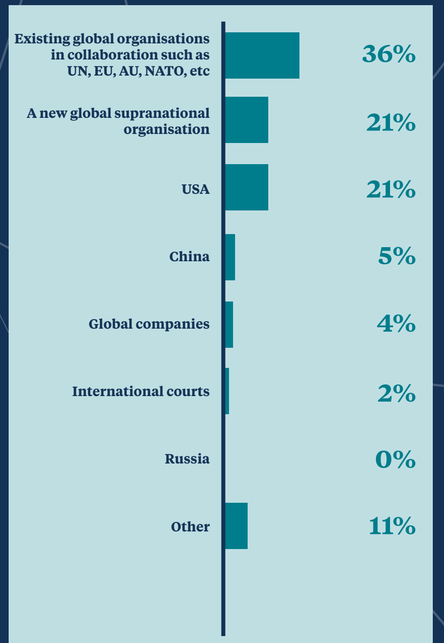


Germany











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Most appropriate for dealing with population growth



Russia

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	40%
A new global supranational organisation	30%
China	12%
Global companies	5%
Russia	5%
USA	1%
International courts	1%
Other	6%



South Africa

Your nation state	30%
Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	26%
A new global supranational organisation	21%
Global companies	7%
China	5%
International courts	4%
USA	2%
Russia	1%
Other	4%



India

Your nation state	32%
Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	21%
A new global supranational organisation	21%
China	8%
Global companies	7%
USA	5%
International courts	3%
Russia	1%
Other	1%



Brazil

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	35%
Your nation state	28%
A new global supranational organisation	19%
Global companies	8%
International courts	3%
China	2%
USA	2%
Russia	0%
Other	3%



China

Existing global organisations in collaboration such as UN, EU, AU, NATO, etc	49%
A new global supranational organisation	26%
China	17%
International courts	3%
Global companies	2%
USA	2%
Russia	1%
Other	1%

BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Most appropriate for dealing with extreme poverty



Sweden



Australia



UK



USA

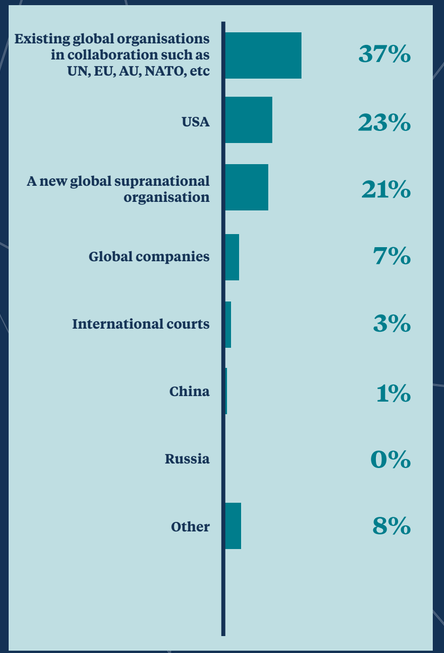


Germany











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Most appropriate for dealing with extreme poverty



Russia





South Africa



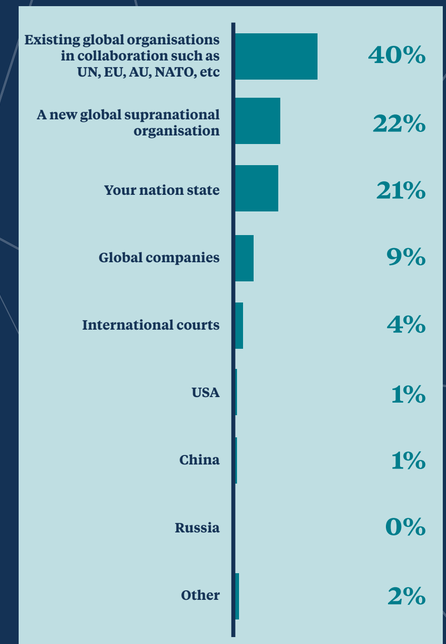


India





Brazil





China



BASE: BRA (n=1,003), SAF (n=1,003), IND (n=1,000), CHN (n=1,015), SWE (n=1,114), GBR (n=1,000), RUS (n=1,015), GER (n=1,003), USA (n=1,000), AUS (n=1,001)

Summary of results



The public's perception of global catastrophic risks

A SAFER OR A LESS SAFE WORLD

- Asked whether the world has become safer or less safe over the past two years when it comes to global risks, a majority of all countries say that the world is less safe today than it was two years ago. We find the biggest proportion who think the world has become less safe in South Africa, Australia, Russia and Brazil, while the lowest proportion may be found in India, Germany and Sweden.
- Older people are generally more inclined to feel that the world is less safe now than two years ago. A common feature for all countries, apart from Brazil, is that the number of those who feel that the world has become less safe increases with age.

CURRENT STATE OF THE WORLD

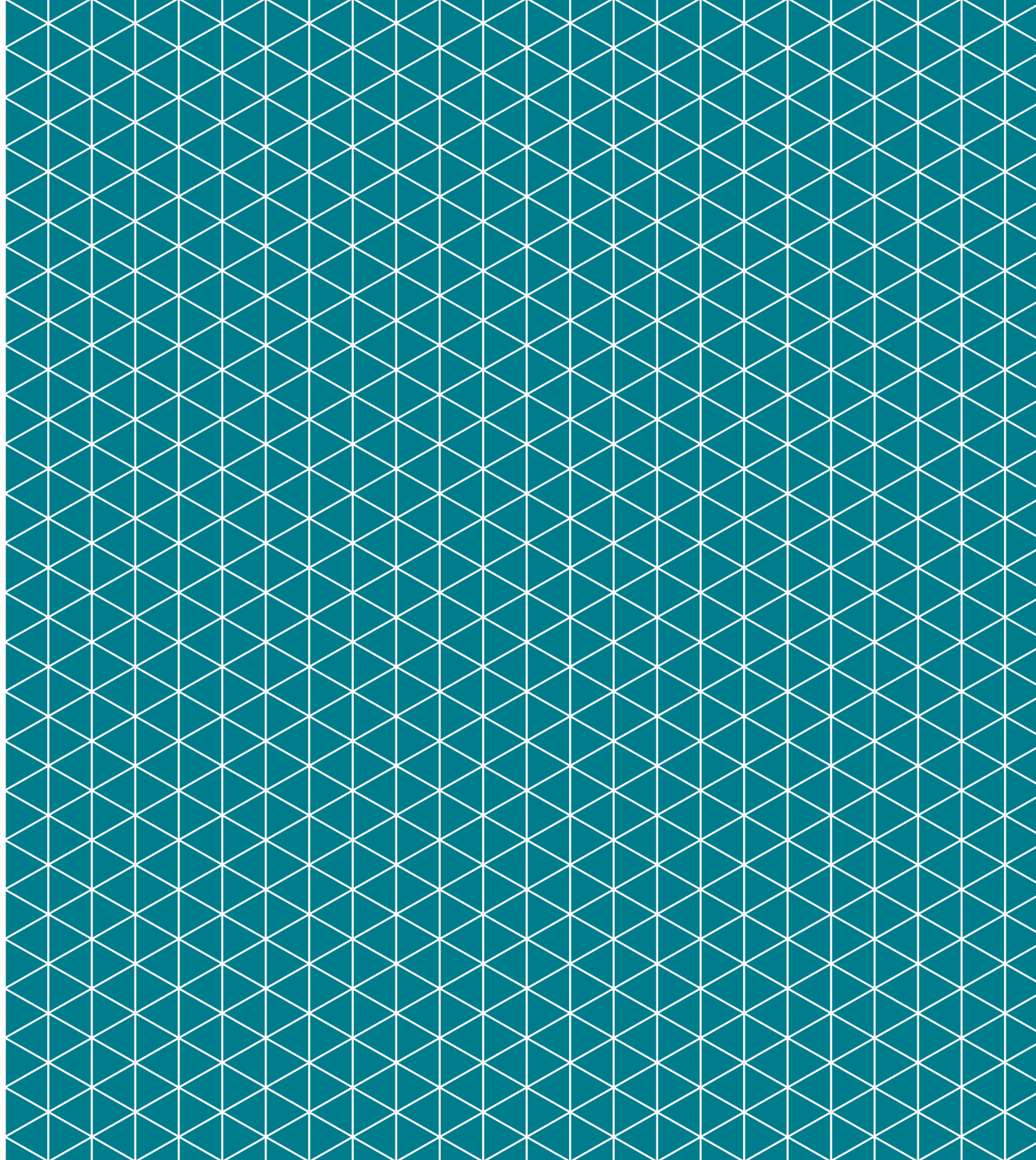
- Asked how to describe the state of the world right now, we see that the view of the state of the world is largely shaped by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The word 'pandemic' is one of the words that occurs most frequently in all countries. Other common descriptions of the state of the world are, for example, that it is unsafe, frightening or chaotic.
- Climate and environmental issues are also raised in several countries. This is particularly true of Germany and partly of Sweden, although these issues are also mentioned in different ways in many of the other countries. In the UK, Brazil, India and Russia, they are often mentioned in relation to pollution.



The public's risk assessment of global catastrophic risks

GLOBAL RISKS

- Asked whether or not they agree that climate change, environmental degradation, political violence, weapons of mass destruction, pandemics, artificial intelligence, population increases and extreme poverty are considered to represent a global risk, we see that the majority of the population in all countries in the survey consider these problems to be a potential risk.
- In certain countries, the public are more likely to consider more events to be potential risks. This is particularly true of people in India, Brazil and South Africa. On the other side, i.e. those who generally see fewer risks, we find the USA. People in the USA consider climate change, environmental degradation and pandemics to be significantly lower risks than those in most other countries.
- In general, women in most countries are more likely to view more events as potential risks. We see this in countries such as Sweden, the UK, Germany, Brazil and Russia, while women in countries such as China or India do not differ from men quite as much.



The public's risk assessment of global catastrophic risks

CLIMATE CHANGE

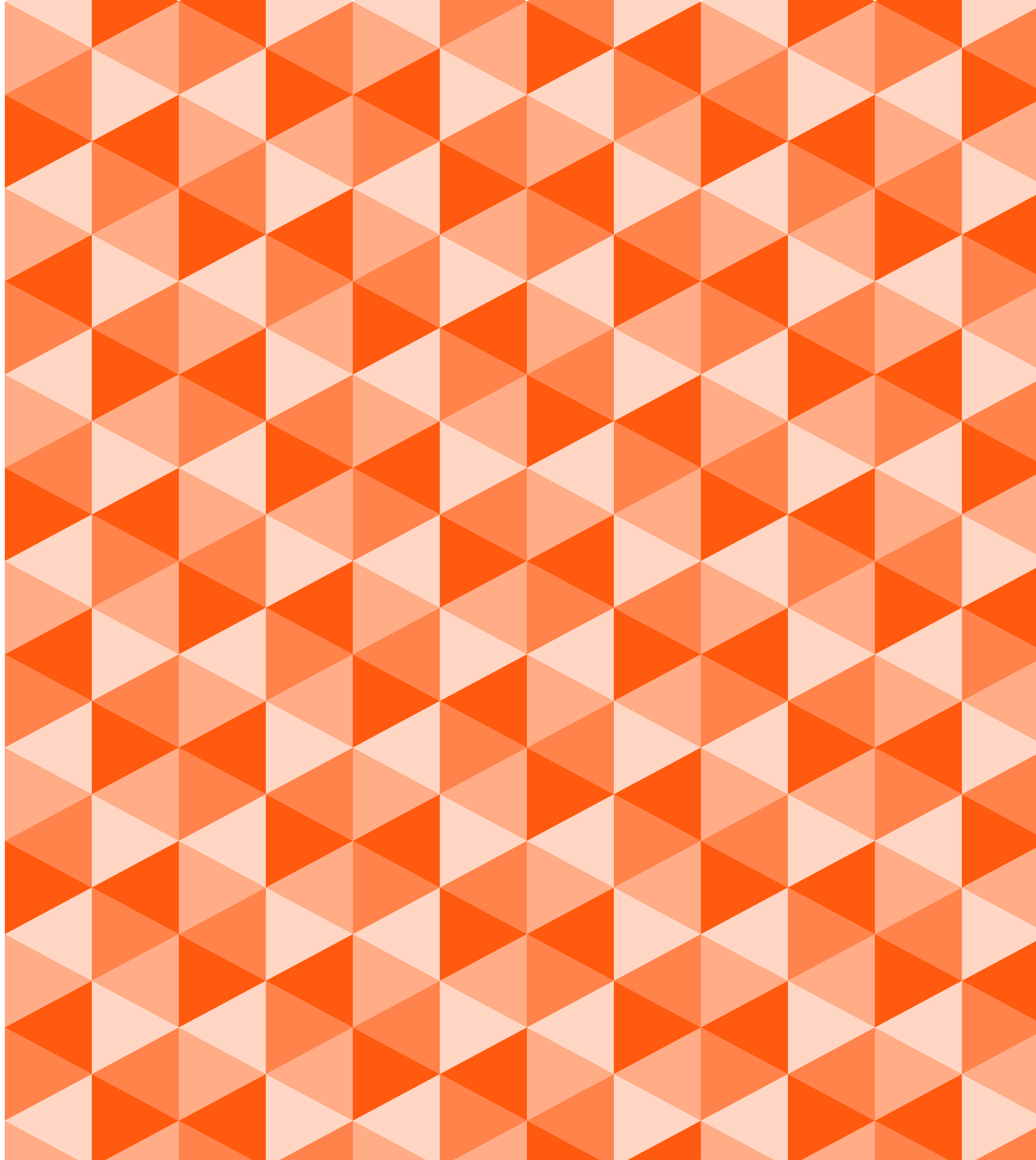
- Climate change that causes environmental degradation, such as rising sea levels or melting polar ice caps, is considered a risk of a global disaster to the greatest degree by people living in Brazil, South Africa and India. Residents in any of these three countries are more likely to consider climate change to be a risk than those in other countries in the survey.

OTHER LARGE-SCALE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

- Large-scale environmental degradation, such as pollution of water, air and soil, is considered to represent a risk of a global disaster to the highest degree by people in Brazil, South Africa, Sweden and India.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AND CONFLICTS THAT ESCALATE INTO WAR

- Politically motivated violence and conflicts that escalate into war are very much regarded as a risk in Brazil, but also in South Africa, Sweden and Russia.



The public's risk assessment of global catastrophic risks

THE USE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS)

- The use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons) is considered to be a risk of global disaster to a greater extent among people in Brazil, where it is considered to be a risk to a greater extent than in the other countries, but it is also considered a major risk in Russia, India, South Africa and Sweden.

EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS

- Epidemics and pandemics are regarded as a risk of a global disaster to the greatest extent by people in Brazil, who are more likely to think so than those in other countries, closely followed by Sweden, South Africa, China and India, who also regard it as a significant risk.

THE CREATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT MIGHT ACHIEVE SUPERHUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND MAKE INDEPENDENT DECISIONS, THEREBY BECOMING A THREAT TO HUMANITY

- The creation of Artificial Intelligence that might be able to achieve superhuman knowledge and make independent decisions, which is regarded as a risk of a global disaster to the greatest extent by people in India, who believe this more than those in other countries. People in South Africa and Brazil also view this as a risk to a very great extent.



The public's risk assessment of global catastrophic risks

POPULATION GROWTH

- Population growth is considered a risk of a global disaster to the greatest extent by people in India, they believe this more so than those in other countries. People in Russia consider it a risk to a lesser extent than those in other countries.

EXTREME POVERTY

- Extreme poverty is considered to be a risk of a global disaster to the greatest extent among people in South Africa and Brazil, with people in both countries mentioning it more than those in other countries. Extreme poverty is considered to be a risk to the least extent among the people of China.

TOP 3 RANKING - WHICH RISKS NEED ADDRESSING MOST URGENTLY

- For six out of ten countries, the issue of epidemics and pandemics leads the way as the issue that people believe should be addressed first. The issue of pandemics comes first in Australia, the UK, the USA, India, Brazil and China.
- In Sweden and Germany, by contrast, the issue of climate change leads the way, while extreme poverty comes first in South Africa, and the use of weapons of mass destruction comes first in Russia.

The world’s natural resources

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION GROWTH BY 2100

- A majority in all countries, apart from India, have a negative view of the population growth that is expected to happen by the year 2100 according to the UN’s latest forecasts. People in Sweden, Germany and the UK are particularly negative about the consequences of impending population growth, more so than those in the other countries.
- A general observation is that younger people aged 18-29 tend to see the consequences as something slightly more positive; this applies to most of the countries, apart from Sweden, Brazil and Russia.
- Highly educated people, regardless of country, tend to see the consequences as more negative.

LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE WORLD

- When asked whether they believe that the world’s natural resources are sufficient to enable all the world’s inhabitants to have the same standard of living as the industrialised countries right now, given modern technology, natural resources are seen as insufficient in most of the countries. More than half of the people in almost all of the countries except Russia agree, fully or partly, that natural resources are insufficient. Those who feel in particular that they are insufficient compared to other countries are people in Sweden, Germany and the UK.

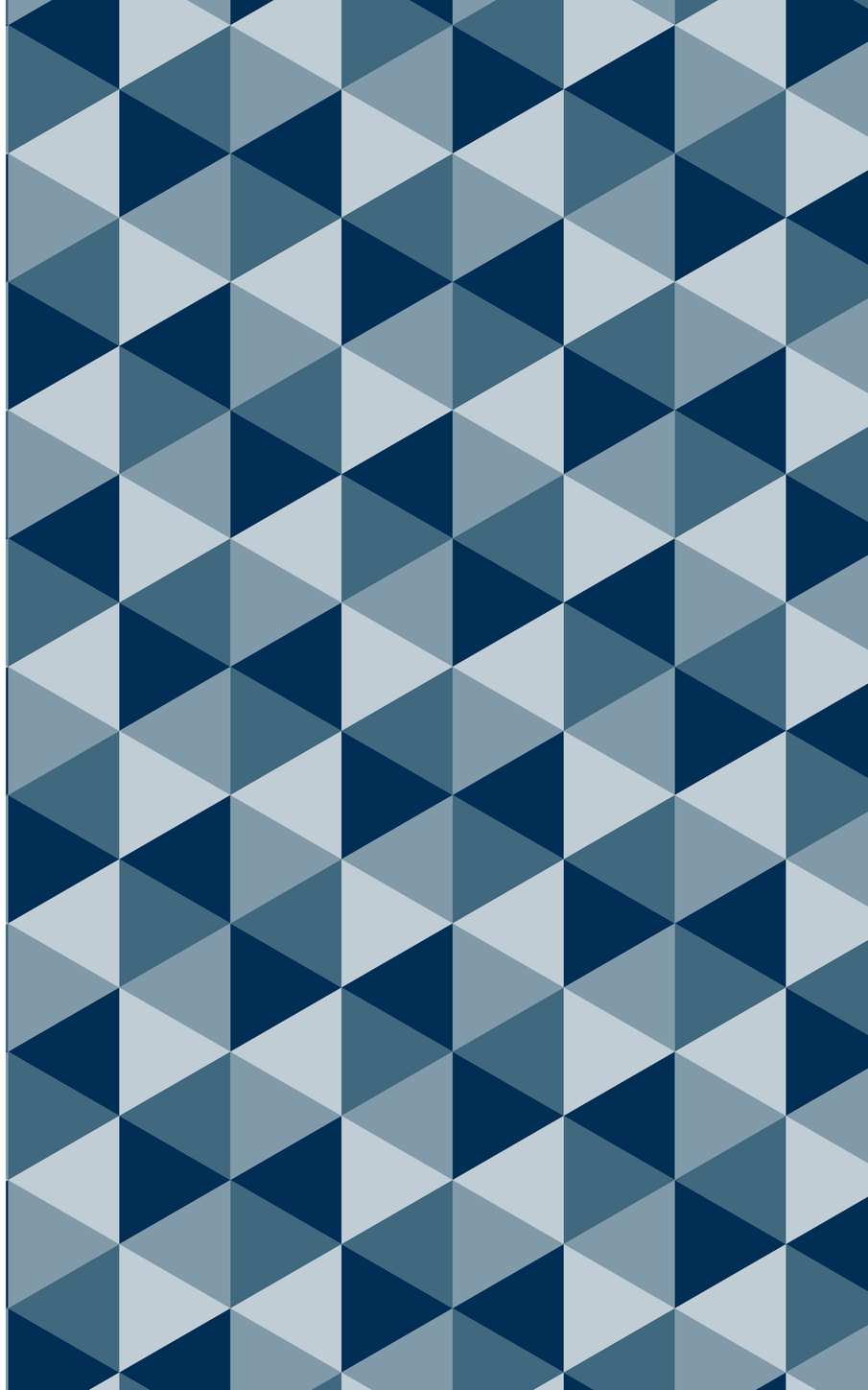
COVID-19 pandemic

HOW AFFECTED PEOPLE ARE BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- People in Brazil, South Africa, China and India respond to a greater extent than those in other countries that they are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In India and South Africa, the biggest proportion, 56%, say that they are highly affected.
- If we look at how different age groups perceive how much they are affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there are many differences between the countries. In Sweden, it is to a greater extent older people who feel significantly affected, while in many other countries it is those who are younger and/or middle-aged who feel significantly more affected; this is the case for people in Australia, South Africa, India, Germany and China. There are no significant differences between age groups in the USA, the UK, Brazil and Russia.
- In Sweden, the UK, Australia, Brazil and Russia, women are more likely to respond that they are affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

IN WHAT WAY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

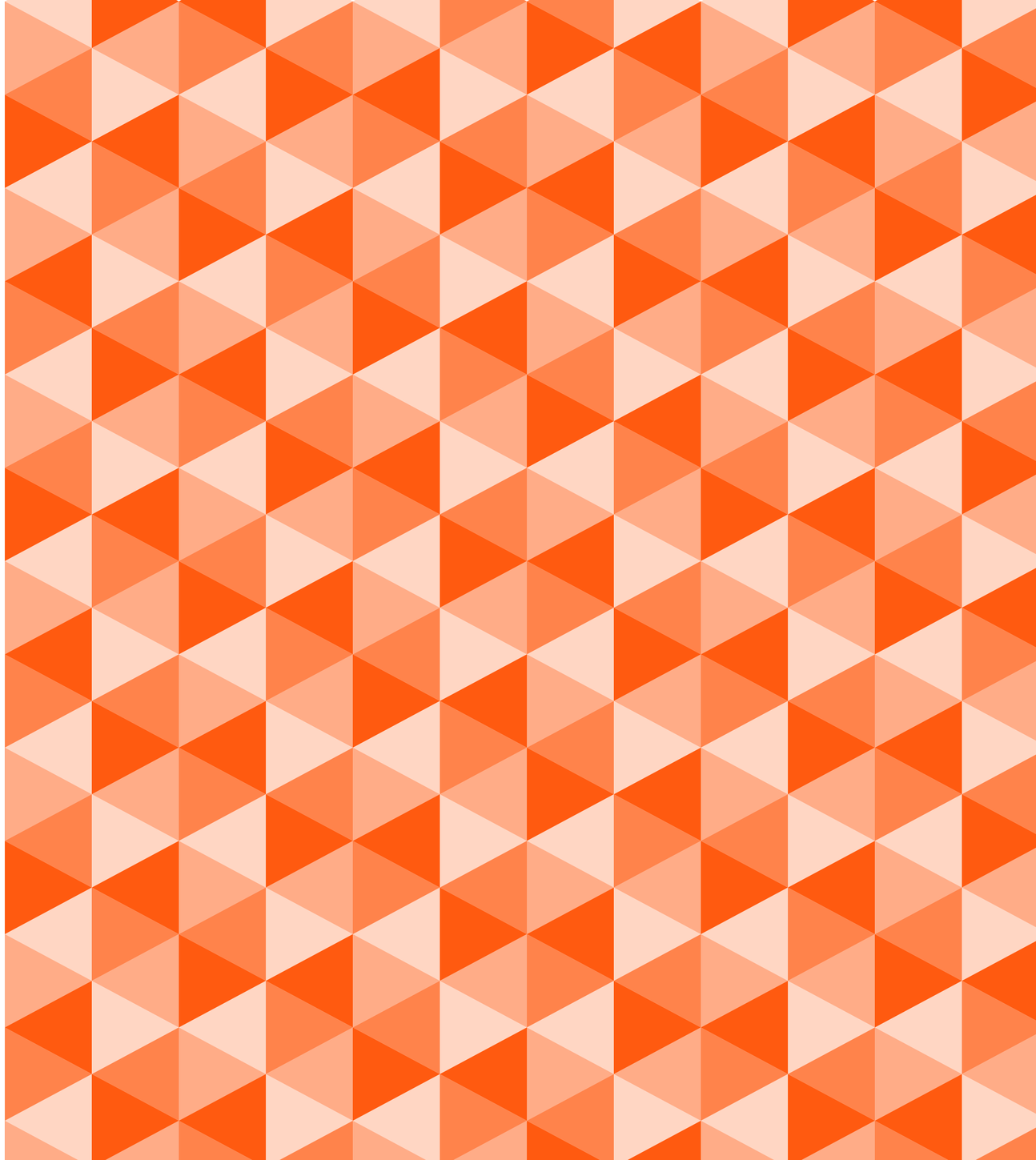
- Those who are affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic often mention that they have worked from home and stayed at home, restrictions and isolation, as well as reduced social contacts.



COVID-19 pandemic

CHANGES IN THE WAY THEY LIVE IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION IN THE PANDEMIC

- When asked how they are prepared to change the way they live in order to prevent the spread of infection in the pandemic, a majority in all countries reply that they are willing to do at least one or more things.
- Changes that they might consider making differ slightly between countries; in Australia, the UK and Russia, people respond to a great extent that they are prepared to accept a lockdown of society.



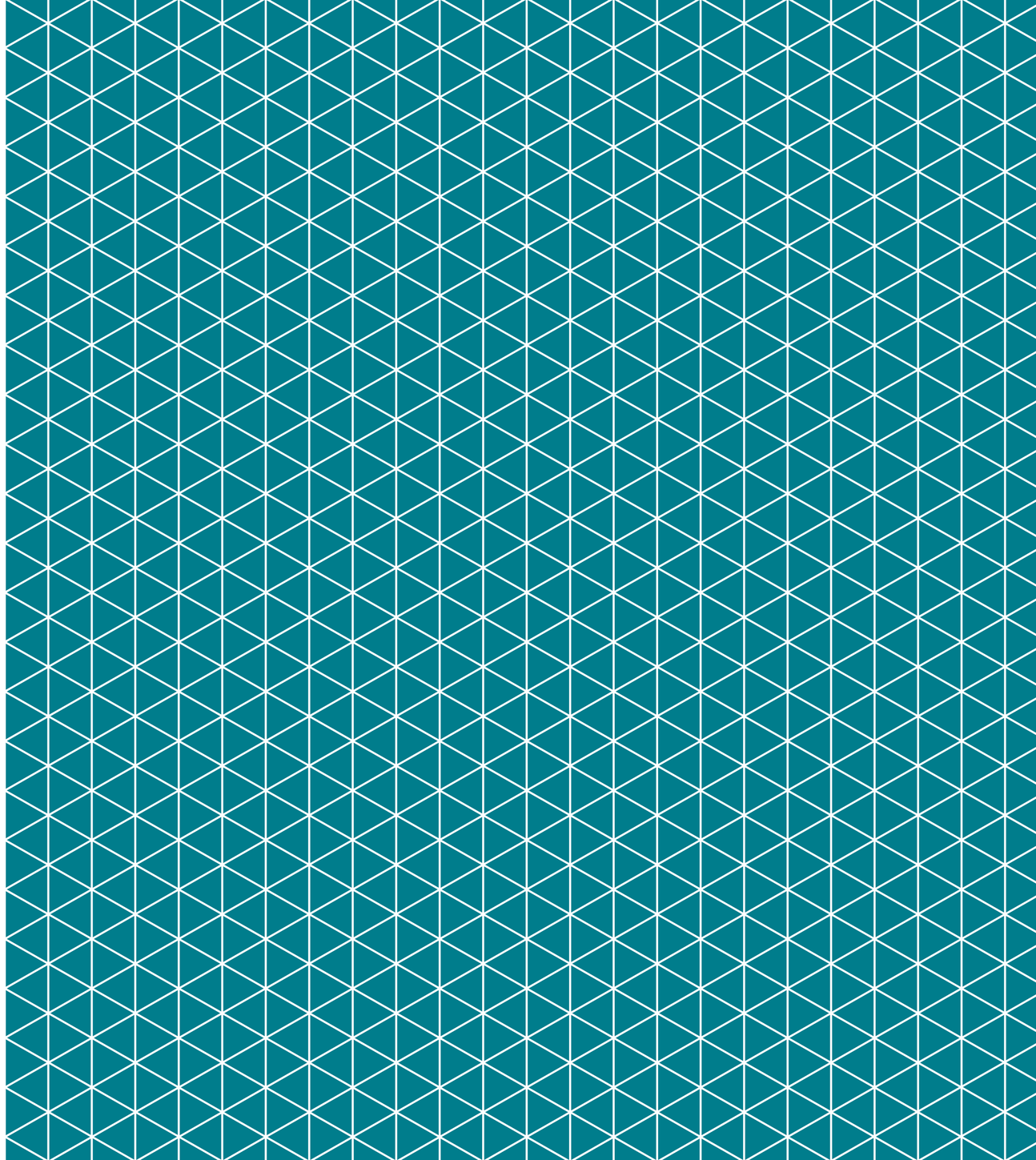
Climate change

HOW AFFECTED PEOPLE ARE BY CLIMATE CHANGE

- In half of the countries, a majority respond that they are affected by ongoing climate change; this is the case for people in India, Brazil, China, South Africa and Russia, all of whom say to a greater extent than those in other countries that they are affected.
- In six of the countries, women say to a greater extent that they are affected by ongoing climate change; this is the case in Sweden, the UK, Australia, Germany, Brazil and Russia.
- There are no specific trends in how affected people are when it comes to age.

HOW PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED

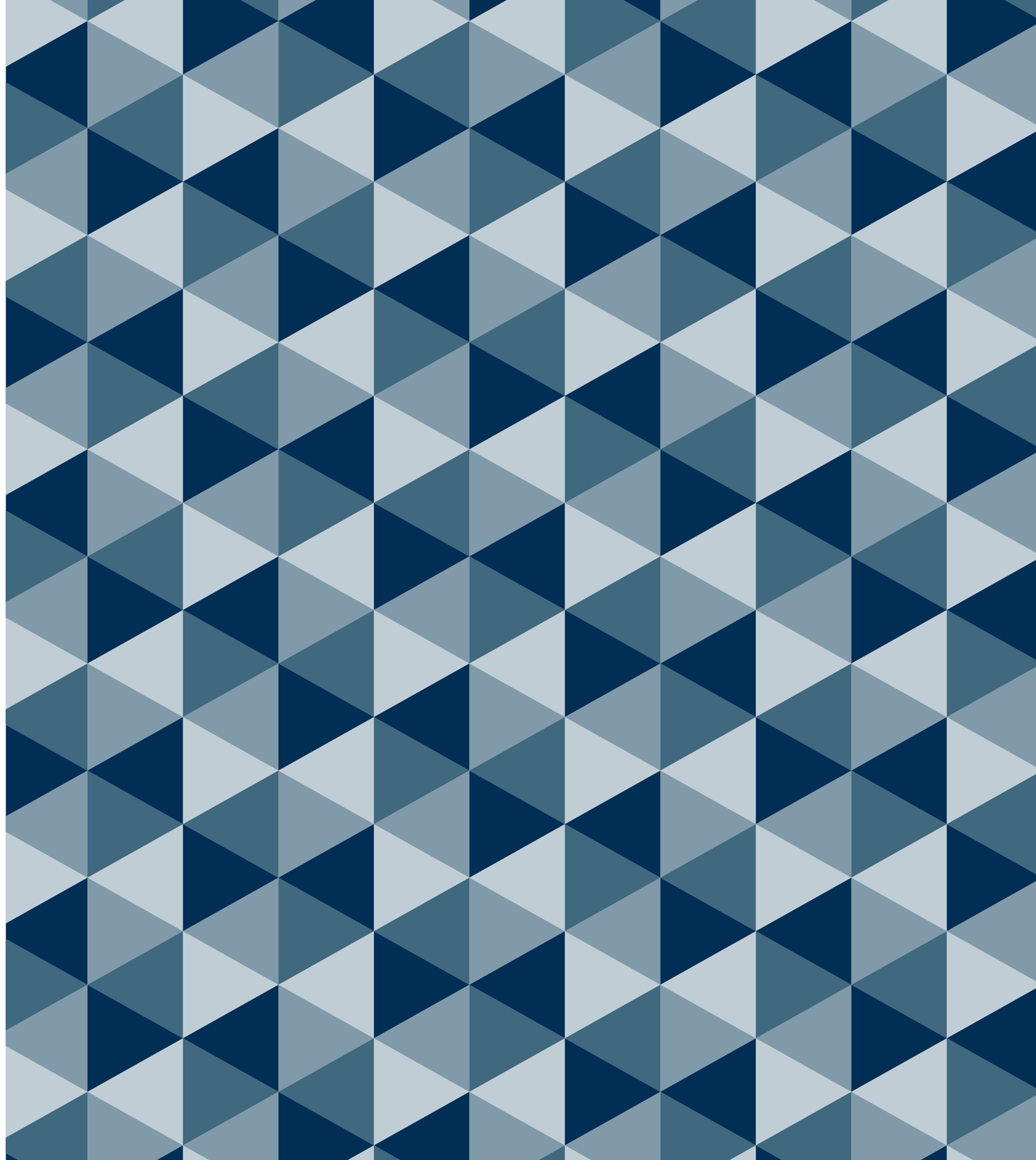
- Those affected by ongoing climate change often mention changes in the weather in the form of high temperatures, pollution, droughts/fires and floods.



Climate change

PREVENTING FUTURE CLIMATE DISASTERS

- A large majority in all countries are prepared to make changes in their current way of life in order to avoid climate disasters in the future.
- The extent differs slightly between the countries. People in Brazil, India and South Africa express most strongly that we should make significant changes, while people in the USA, Australia and Germany do not think so to the same extent.
- There are no huge differences in terms of gender or age in the countries. There are some significant differences, such as women in Sweden, Australia and Germany believing to a greater extent that we should try to make significant changes that affect our current standard of living, as do those aged 18-29 in the USA and Russia.



Global system of governance

HUMAN ACTIONS ARE THE MAIN CAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING

- A majority in all countries agrees that human actions are the main cause of global warming. The proportion is highest in Brazil and India, and lowest in Russia and Australia.

HUMAN ACTIONS ARE THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

- The majority in all countries also agree that human actions are the main cause of the COVID-19 outbreak, although not to the same degree as they agree that this is the case for global warming.

POLITICIANS ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

- The majority of people in all countries feel that politicians are not doing enough to combat climate change. Those who believe this most strongly are people in Brazil, South Africa and India, while people in Australia are least likely to believe this.

POLITICIANS ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO TACKLE THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19

- The majority do not believe that politicians are doing enough to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 in seven of the countries.
- People in Brazil, India and China believe this most strongly, while people in Sweden, Australia and Germany are least likely to believe this. Only in Australia and Germany is there a bigger proportion who disagree with this statement than agree.



Global system of governance

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL EVER BE USED AGAIN

- Five out of ten countries in the survey possess nuclear weapons: India, China, Russia, the UK and the USA. People living in India, China and Russia, which have nuclear weapons, believe to a greater extent that it is unlikely that nuclear weapons will ever be used again. India to a greater extent than all of the other countries, and China and Russia less than India, but to a greater extent than the rest. People in the UK end up somewhere in the middle in relation to the other countries, while people in the USA are less inclined to consider it unlikely. The USA, together with Australia and Germany, are the countries that least consider it unlikely.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD, INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WILL INCREASE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- Asked whether international collaboration is expected to increase in the years ahead as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis, the majority of respondents in India, China, South Africa and Brazil believe this to be the case, while the countries that believe it to the least extent are Russia, the USA, Germany and Australia.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD, NATIONALISM WILL INCREASE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- Asked whether nationalism will increase in the years ahead as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis, the biggest proportion in India and South Africa says that it will increase, while people in the USA are less inclined to believe this will happen.

Global system of governance

WHETHER THE UN SYSTEM HAS TO BE REFORMED IN ORDER TO BETTER MANAGE GLOBAL RISKS

- Asked to what extent they agree that the UN needs to be reformed in order to better manage global risks, the biggest proportion responding that this is necessary may be found in India, China and Brazil. The lowest proportion who believe this are in the UK and Sweden.
- In six of the countries, men are more inclined to agree that the UN has to be reformed; this is the case for men in Sweden, the USA, Australia, South Africa, Germany and Russia.

WHETHER A NEW GLOBAL SUPRANATIONAL ORGANISATION SHOULD BE CREATED FOR BINDING GLOBAL DECISIONS

- Asked whether they agree that a new global supranational organisation should be created to make binding global decisions on how to manage risks, people in India, China and South Africa agree to a greater extent than those in other countries that a new one should be created. People in Germany, the USA and Sweden believe this to a lesser extent, although there is still a majority in these countries too.
- In five of the countries, men are more inclined to believe that one should be created. This is the case in the USA, Australia, South Africa, Germany and Russia, while men in Sweden and the UK are less inclined to believe that such an organisation should be created.

HOW CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS ARE ABLE TO DEAL WITH GLOBAL RISKS TODAY

- Asked whether or not they agree on whether the current international system is able to make the decisions required to manage global risks, more than half in Germany and Sweden say that this is not the case, while people in India and China reply that it is.

Allocation of responsibility

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with climate change, most respondents, i.e. six out of ten countries reply that existing global organisations are most appropriate, while four out of ten countries believe that a new global supranational organisation is most appropriate for dealing with this problem. The countries that mention a new global supranational organisation first of all are Australia, the UK, South Africa and India.
- The USA is the country with the lowest percentage responding that a supranational organisation is most appropriate.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SUCH AS POLLUTION

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with environmental issues such as pollution, seven countries respond that existing global organisations are, while three out of ten countries respond that a new global supranational organisation would be most appropriate. The countries that respond that existing ones are most appropriate are Sweden, the UK, the USA, Germany, Russia, Brazil and China, while Australia, South Africa and India respond that a new organisation would be most appropriate.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE OR CONFLICTS

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with politically motivated violence and conflicts, nine out of ten countries respond that existing global organisations are most appropriate for this. Only India responds that a new global supranational organisation would be more appropriate.

Allocation of responsibility

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS)

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with weapons of mass destruction, nine out of ten countries believe that existing global organisations are most appropriate for this. India is the only country where the majority responds that a new global supranational actor is most appropriate.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with epidemics and pandemics, all countries apart from India, which is more inclined to believe in a new supranational organisation, believe that existing global organisations are most appropriate.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TECHNOLOGIES

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for dealing with Artificial Intelligence and other potentially dangerous technologies, six out of ten countries respond that a new global supranational organisation is most appropriate, namely Australia, Russia, South Africa, India, Brazil, China.
- Three out of ten countries, Sweden, the UK and Germany, respond in the first instance that existing global organisations are most appropriate.
- The USA responds that they themselves are most appropriate. One in four Americans believes that they themselves are most appropriate, with a corresponding figure for Russia of one in twenty and for China of one in ten.



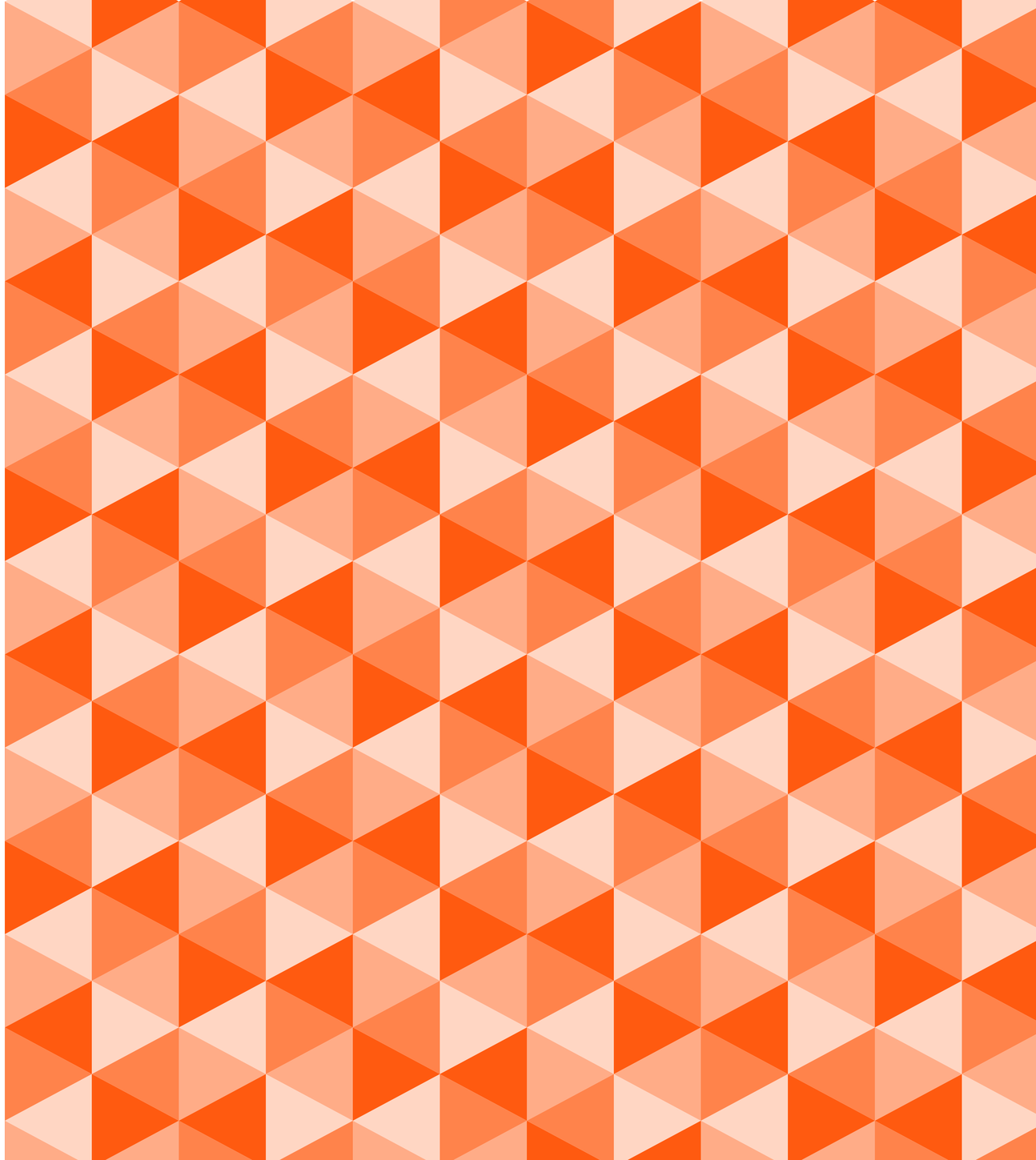
Allocation of responsibility

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH POPULATION GROWTH

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for managing population growth, eight out of ten countries respond that existing global organisations are most appropriate. South Africa and India respond primarily that their own country is most appropriate.
- In general, there is consistently a bigger proportion in each state that believes that their own state is appropriate for dealing with this issue.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH EXTREME POVERTY

- Asked which organisations are most appropriate for tackling extreme poverty, nine out of ten countries respond that existing global organisations are most appropriate. India replies that it is primarily their own state.



About the Global Challenges Foundation

The Global Challenges Foundation aims to promote the development of global decision-making models capable of more effectively and equitably mitigating and, preferably, eliminating the major global catastrophic risks threatening humanity.

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Global Challenges Foundation



About Novus

Novus is one of Sweden's leading analysis and research companies. We are at the center of the intersection of all the key players in society, which means that we have unique knowledge and insight into today's ever-faster developments and change. We, like few others, can analyze the times we live in, and contribute with analysis that creates real change. We can tell you how things are the way they are, and provide guidance in how you can make changes and grow.

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