

# Formulating a Responsive and Strategic Foreign Policy for the Philippines

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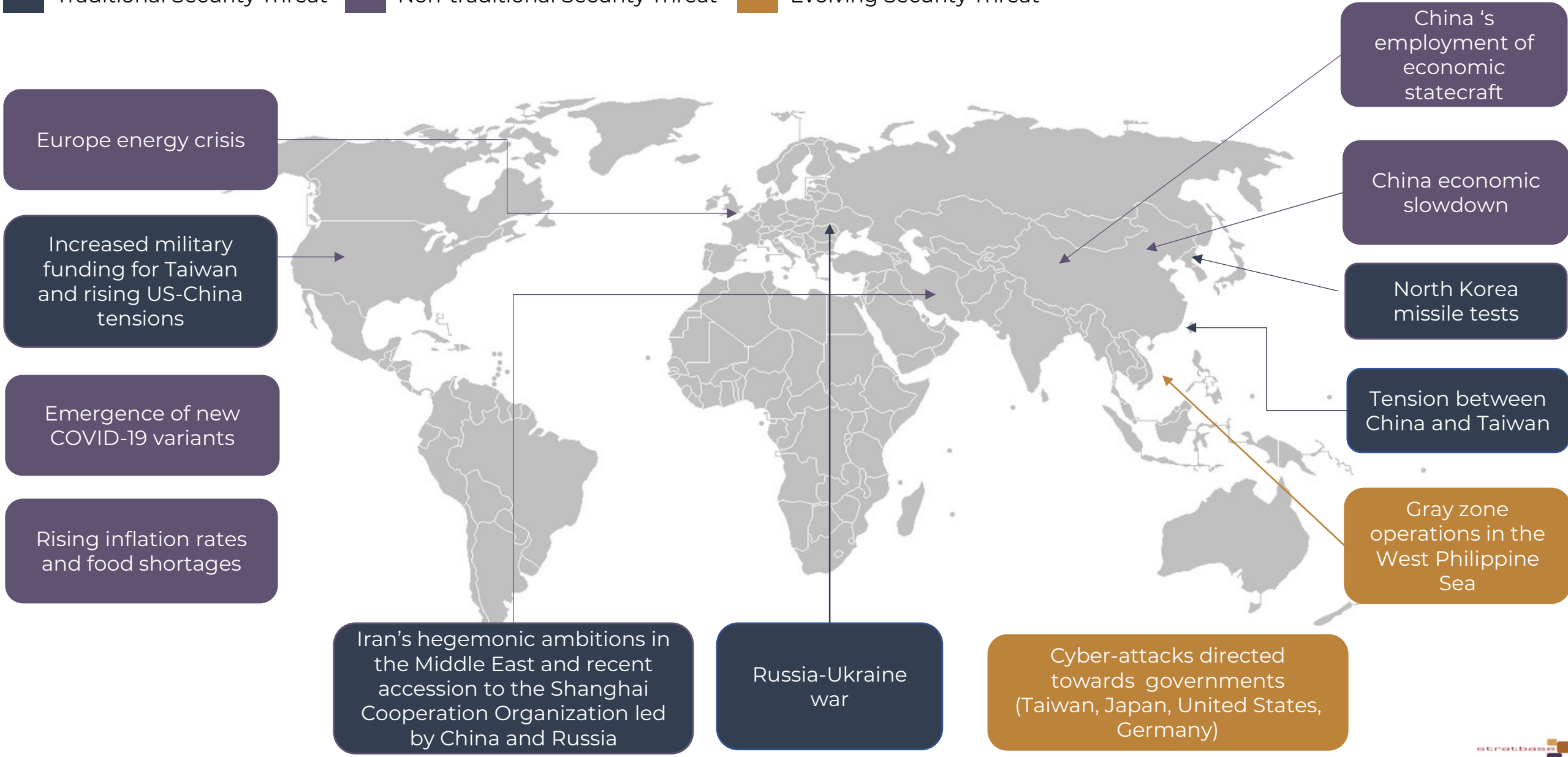
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# Geopolitical Landscape in the Indo-Pacific



■ Traditional Security Threat ■ Non-traditional Security Threat ■ Evolving Security Threat





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In a complex multipolar and interconnected global community, **President Marcos Jr.'s engagements signal the administration's move to strengthen the country's existing diplomatic relations while expanding its networks.** With an independent foreign policy, the **Marcos Jr. administration is expected to keep its promise to prioritize the national interest** as the main driver of its strategies. The **West Philippine Sea continues to be a focus of the country's foreign policy**, with maritime security increasingly becoming a point of cooperation among states.

**The Philippines and the Indo-Pacific: Sustaining Multilateral Cooperation with Allies and Partners**

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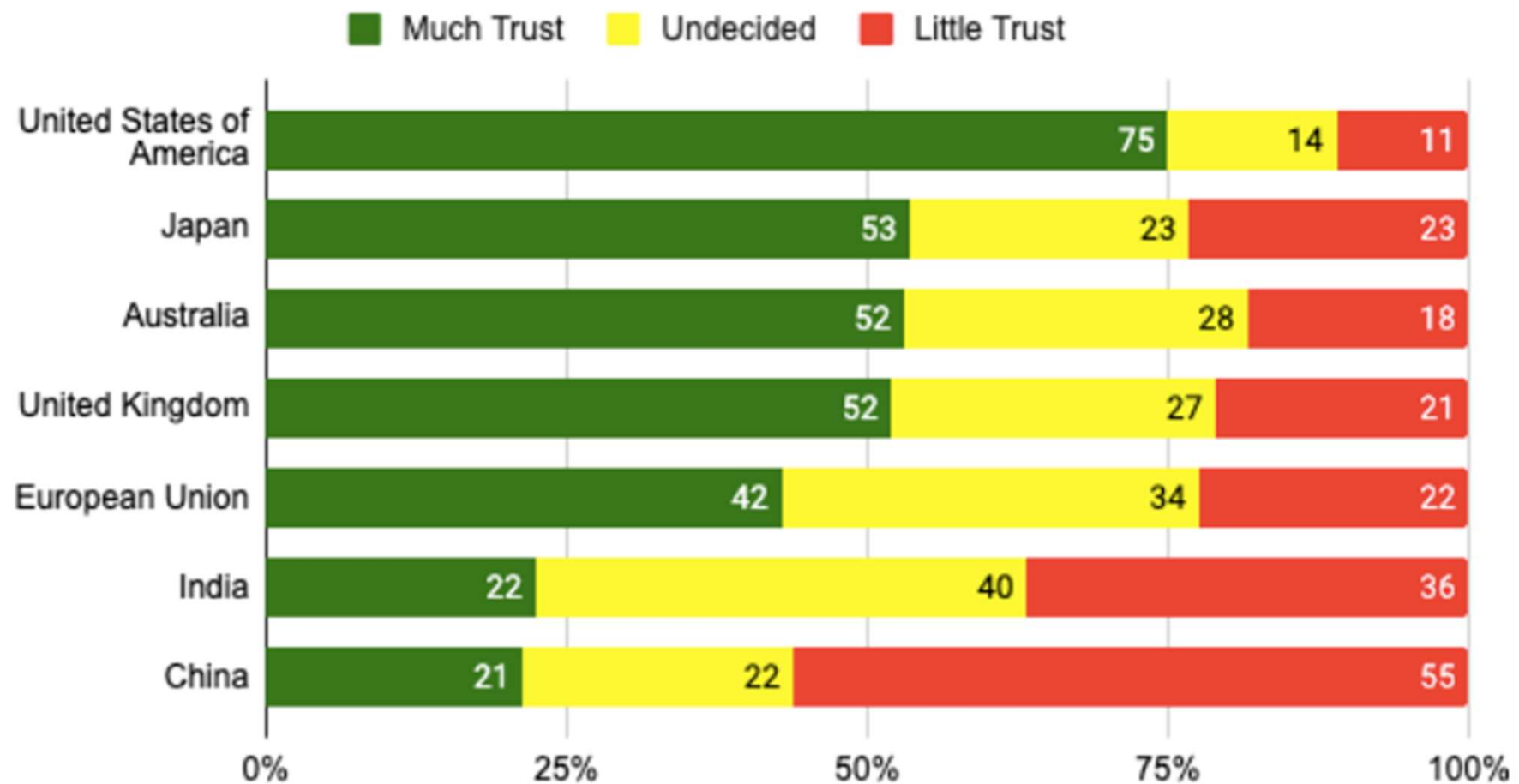
# Public Opinion on Issues Regarding the West Philippine Sea and Trust in Selected Countries

**TEST STATEMENT: “The next Philippine government should assert its right on the islands in the West Philippine Sea as stipulated in the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration,” OCT 2021**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Net*</u>
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>+78</b>
NCR	87	9	5	+82
Balance Luzon	85	12	2	+83
Visayas	77	16	7	+71
Mindanao	77	20	3	+74
Urban	85	12	4	+81
Rural	80	16	4	+76
18-24	80	17	2	+78
25-34	86	11	3	+83
35-44	80	16	4	+76
45-54	81	16	4	+77
55 and above	81	14	5	+77
None/Up to some Elementary	70	23	7	+64
Elem grad/Some JHS	84	12	4	+80
JHS grad/Voc/some College	83	13	3	+80
College grad/Post graduate	83	14	3	+81

\* Net figures (% Agree minus % Disagree), correctly rounded

*TRUST IN THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, UNITED KINGDOM,  
JAPAN, EUROPEAN UNION, INDIA AND CHINA, OCT 2021*



**EFFECTIVE MEASURES THAT THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES SHOULD DO ON THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA ISSUE  
(OVERALL): PHILIPPINES, OCT 2021**

<b>Strengthen military capability of the Philippines, especially the Navy and Coast Guard</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Conduct joint maritime patrols and military exercises with allied countries</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Fully implement the terms of the Visiting Forces of Agreement or VFA and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement or EDCA</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Finalization of the ASEAN Code of Conduct or an agreement on how countries would act within the South China Sea</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Bring this issue to the United Nations General Assembly</b>	<b>40</b>

*Note: Don't know, No answer, and Refused responses are not shown.*

*Q. Sa inyong palagay, alin po sa mga sumusunod ang mga mabibisang pamamaraan na dapat gawin ng susunod na Presidente ng Pilipinas ukol sa isyu ng West Philippine Sea? Maaari po kayong magbigay ng hanggang tatlong sagot. Alin po dito ang pinaka-importante para sa inyo? Mayroon pa po bang pangalawang pinaka-importante? Mayroon pa po bang pangatlong pinaka-importante? (SHUFFLE CARDS; ALLOW UP TO 3 ANSWERS)*



**PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT  
BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURES ON THE VACANT ISLANDS IN THE  
WEST PHILIPPINE SEA TO ASSERT OUR RIGHTS TO THESE  
ISLANDS, PHILIPPINES, OCT 2021**

<b>Important</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Not important</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Net*</b>	<b>+72</b>

\* Net figures (% Important minus % Not important), correctly rounded.

Q. Sa inyong palagay, importante po ba para sa inyo na gumawa ang susunod na Presidente ng Pilipinas ng mga imprastraktura sa mga bakanteng isla sa West Philippine Sea upang igiit ang ating karapatan sa mga islang ito? Masasabi po ba ninyo na ito ay... (TALAGANG IMPORTANTE, MEDYO IMPORTANTE, HINDI TIYAK KUNG IMPORTANTE O HINDI, MEDYO HINDI IMPORTANTE, o TALAGANG HINDI IMPORTANTE)?

## AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT WITH TEST STATEMENTS ON THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

June 24 - 27, 2022 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

**TEST STATEMENT:**

*"The incoming Marcos administration must assert our rights over the West Philippine Sea as stipulated in the 2016 Arbitral Ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration."*

	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>89</b>	94	85	95	91	95	88	91
Strongly agree	63	65	61	63	66	77	60	65
Somewhat agree	26	29	24	32	25	18	28	26
<b>CANNOT SAY IF AGREE OR DISAGREE</b>	9	4	13	5	5	5	10	7
<b>DISAGREE</b>	1	2	0	0	3	0	1	0
Somewhat disagree	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
Strongly disagree	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>UNAIDED</b>								
I do not know enough to give an opinion about this	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	1
Refused	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

## AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT WITH TEST STATEMENTS ON THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

June 24 - 27, 2022 / Philippines

(In Percent)

**TEST STATEMENT:**

*"The incoming Marcos administration must invest in the capability of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard to protect our territory and marine resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone."*

	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>90</b>	88	89	95	91	95	90	89
Strongly agree	56	56	55	48	67	72	53	57
Somewhat agree	34	33	34	47	24	23	36	32
<b>CANNOT SAY IF AGREE OR DISAGREE</b>	<b>8</b>	11	9	5	6	5	8	10
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>1</b>	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Somewhat disagree	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Strongly disagree	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>UNAIDED</b>								
I do not know enough to give an opinion about this	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0
Refused	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

## AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT WITH TEST STATEMENTS ON THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

June 24 - 27, 2022 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

**TEST STATEMENT:**

*"The incoming Marcos administration should form alliances with other countries to defend Philippine territorial rights in the West Philippine Sea."*

	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>84</b>	82	83	87	85	84	85	77
Strongly agree	54	54	54	47	61	59	55	47
Somewhat agree	30	28	29	40	24	25	30	30
<b>CANNOT SAY IF AGREE OR DISAGREE</b>	<b>11</b>	11	12	8	12	8	11	15
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>4</b>	7	3	4	2	8	2	8
Somewhat disagree	3	6	2	4	2	7	2	7
Strongly disagree	0.4	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>UNAIDED</b>								
I do not know enough to give an opinion about this	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0
Refused	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

## Trust in Countries, June 2022

Selected Countries	Aware	Total	A great deal of trust	A fair amount of trust	Total	Not too much trust	No trust at all	Don't know / Refused
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	100	89	31	58	11	9	1	0.5
AUSTRALIA	100	79	15	63	21	16	5	1
JAPAN	100	78	22	55	22	18	3	0.4
GERMANY	100	69	9	60	30	22	8	1
SOUTH KOREA	100	65	10	54	35	26	9	1
GREAT BRITAIN / UNITED KINGDOM	100	64	12	53	35	27	8	1
INDONESIA	99	60	5	55	39	28	12	1
INDIA	100	51	3	48	48	32	17	1
RUSSIA	97	38	7	31	62	36	26	0.1
CHINA	95	33	5	28	67	36	31	0.1

Q19. Sa pangkalahatan, gaano kalaki o kaliit na tiwala ang dapat ibigay o ipakita ng Pilipinas sa (BANSA)? Masasabi ba ninyo na ito ay (SHOWCARD)?

## COMPARATIVE TRUST RATINGS OF SELECTED COUNTRIES

September 2019 and June 2022 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

Selected Countries		Base: Aware					
		Total	A great deal of trust	A fair amount of trust	Total	Not too much trust	No trust at all
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Jun 22	89	31	58	11	9	1
	Sep 19	84	30	54	15	12	3
	Change*	+ 5	+ 1	+ 4	- 4	- 3	- 2
AUSTRALIA	Jun 22	79	15	63	21	16	5
	Sep 19	75	18	57	25	21	4
	Change*	+ 4	- 3	+ 6	- 4	- 5	+ 1
JAPAN	Jun 22	78	22	55	22	18	3
	Sep 19	73	19	55	27	22	5
	Change*	+ 5	+ 3	0	- 5	- 4	- 2
SOUTH KOREA	Jun 22	65	10	54	35	26	9
	Sep 19	60	10	50	40	33	7
	Change*	+ 5	0	+ 4	- 5	- 7	+ 2
GREAT BRITAIN / UNITED KINGDOM	Jun 22	64	12	53	35	27	8
	Sep 19	56	10	46	43	29	14
	Change*	+ 8	+ 2	+ 7	- 8	- 2	- 6
RUSSIA	Jun 22	38	7	31	62	36	26
	Sep 19	35	5	30	65	40	25
	Change*	+ 3	+ 2	+ 1	- 3	- 4	+ 1
CHINA	Jun 22	33	5	28	67	36	31
	Sep 19	25	3	22	75	38	36
	Change*	+ 8	+ 2	+ 6	- 8	- 2	- 5

Q. Sa pangkalahatan, gaano kalaki o kalilit na tiwala ang dapat ibigay o ipakita ng Pilipinas sa (BANSÀ)? Masasabi ba ninyo na ito ay (SHOWCARD)?

Note: \*Change = Figures of June 2022 minus Figures of September 2019.



“

President Marcos Jr. has repeatedly expressed his intent to pursue an independent foreign policy with national interests as the primordial guide. As long as his administration meets that requirement, **the country's strategic partnerships and alliances should not be influenced by pressure and interference from other states.** It is shaped by the **willingness of states to engage in multilateral cooperation to collectively respond to existing and future challenges that may evolve in 2023.**

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# Thank you!



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