



Opinion Poll Report:

The New Arab-Israeli Peace Agreements

October 2020

Executive Summary

- ✓ TRENDS Research & Advisory conducted an Opinion Poll on the new Arab-Israeli peace agreements, in which 844 individuals participated. The main findings are as follows:
 - ✓ Arabs made up the majority of total respondents (78 percent), followed by other nationalities, especially Israelis, British, and Americans (22 percent).
 - ✓ Male participation was 61 percent, and female participation was 39 percent, reflecting the interest of both males and females in the newly-signed peace agreements between some Arab countries and Israel.
 - ✓ University graduates constituted 55 percent of the total respondents, while those with postgraduate education amounted to 20 percent, reflecting the interest of educated people in knowing the impact of these agreements on the stability and development of the Middle East.
 - ✓ The participation of those in the age group of 40-49 years reached 30 percent, followed by 39-30 years (25 percent), and 50 years and above (20 percent).
 - ✓ Married respondents constituted 51 percent of the total participants, reflecting the interest of many married people, especially Arabs, in ensuring the region's stability.
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- ✓ **Question One:** The overwhelming majority (81 percent) of total respondents praised the peace agreements signed between some Arab countries and Israel, while only about 10 percent opposed them.
 - ✓ **Question Two:** As terrorism and extremism have become a scourge of our time, particularly in the Middle East, 69 percent of the respondents said the peace agreements would significantly enhance efforts to eliminate terrorism and counter extremism. Only 11 percent did not agree with that. This suggests that an overwhelming majority of respondents believe that peace will pave the way for sustainable development in the Middle East.
 - ✓ **Question Three:** 77 percent of the respondents said the peace agreements would contribute significantly to the prosperity and socio-economic development of the region, compared to only 11 percent who disagreed. This reflects the extent of participants' awareness about how socio-economic development is critical for peace in the region.
 - ✓ **Question Four:** Given the high importance of the Palestinian issue to many people, 64 percent of total respondents agreed that the peace agreements signed between some Arab countries and Israel would contribute to finding a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Introduction:

TRENDS Research & Advisory conducted an Opinion Poll on the new Arab-Israeli new peace agreements to assess the community's views on the agreements and their impact on various political, economic, social, and security spheres in the Middle East.

The poll included four questions:

1. Will the peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel contribute to achieving peace and stability in the Middle East?
2. Will the peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel enhance the efforts to eliminate terrorism and counter extremism?
3. Will the peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel contribute to the prosperity and socio-economic development of the region?

The questionnaire, in Arabic and English, was posted on TRENDS website for two weeks to allow sufficient time for broader participation.

Objectives:

- 1- To assess the extent of the community awareness about the importance of the new peace agreements between some Arab countries and Israel.
- 2- To understand the views of the community members on the role these agreements can play in supporting growth and sustainable development in the Middle East.
- 3- To analyse the community members' opinions on whether these agreements will contribute toward eliminating the rising tide of terrorism and extremism in the Middle East.
- 4- To understand whether the community members think these agreements will contribute to finding a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian issue based on a two-state solution.

Data Collection

Given the precautionary measures now in place due to Covid-19, an electronic data collection method was used. The questions were digitized and coded using approved electronic programs and posted on the TRENDS website to ensure the accuracy of answers and ease of response.

The Sample:**a- Sample Selection Method:**

The sample size was 844 individuals who were contacted through the databases available at TRENDS and the various social media platforms. Snowball sampling was also used where every contacted individual would send the questionnaire link to their acquaintances to get more participants.

b- Sample Characteristics:

The sample was representative of all segments of the international community; males, females, age groups, and different countries.

c- Margin of Error:

The margin of error was small and fell within a statically acceptable range in electronic surveys. This was taken into account in the analysis to ensure the precision of the findings.

d- Level of Response:

The response to the questionnaire was high, thanks to the electronic method used in data collection. However, the following observations were noted:

- 1- The response of the Arabs was higher than other nationalities.
- 2- The response to the English version of the questionnaire was average. This might be because Arabic speakers preferred the Arabic version.

The Questionnaire:

The questionnaire consisted of four questions designed to gauge the participants' knowledge and awareness about the importance of the peace agreements signed between some Arab countries and Israel.

Duration:

a- Data collection was carried out in 15 days, from September 15 to September 29, 2020.

b- Analysis and report preparation: TRENDS used statistical analysis packages to analyse the collected data and extract the findings. The process of data analysis and report preparation was completed on October 4, 2020.

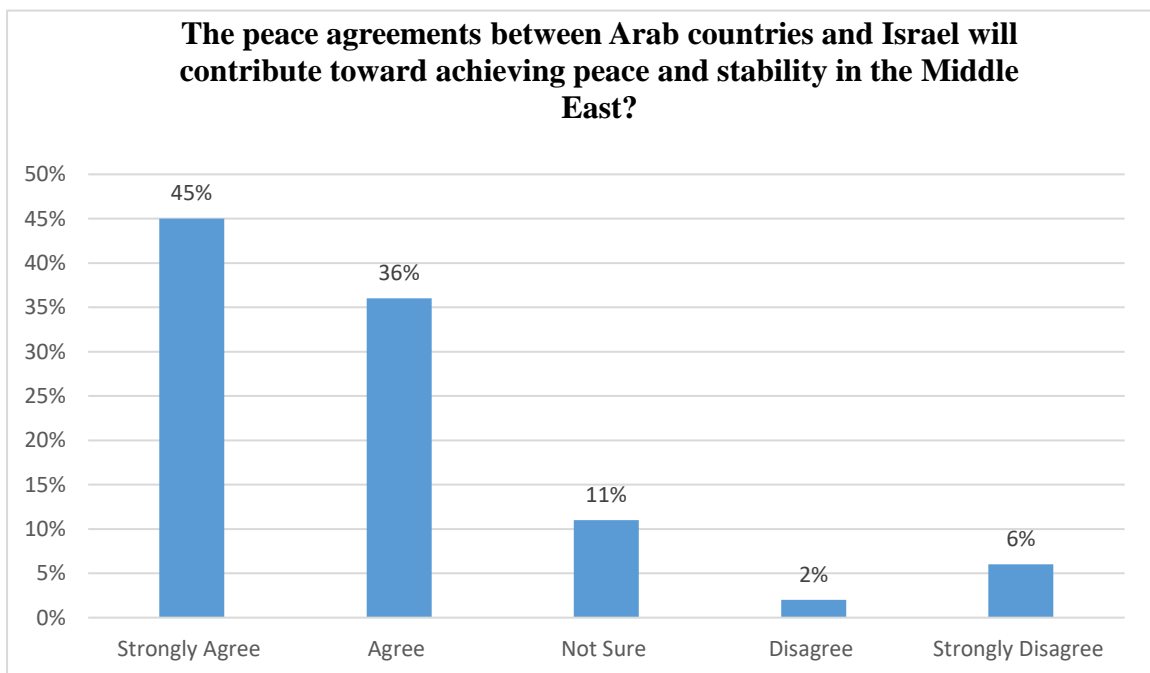
The Findings and Analysis

The survey resulted in the following findings:

Question One: Will the peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel contribute to achieving peace and stability in the Middle East?

- The majority of the respondents (about 81 percent) praised the agreements and agreed that they would contribute to achieving peace and stability in the Middle East, compared to only about 10 percent who did not agree.

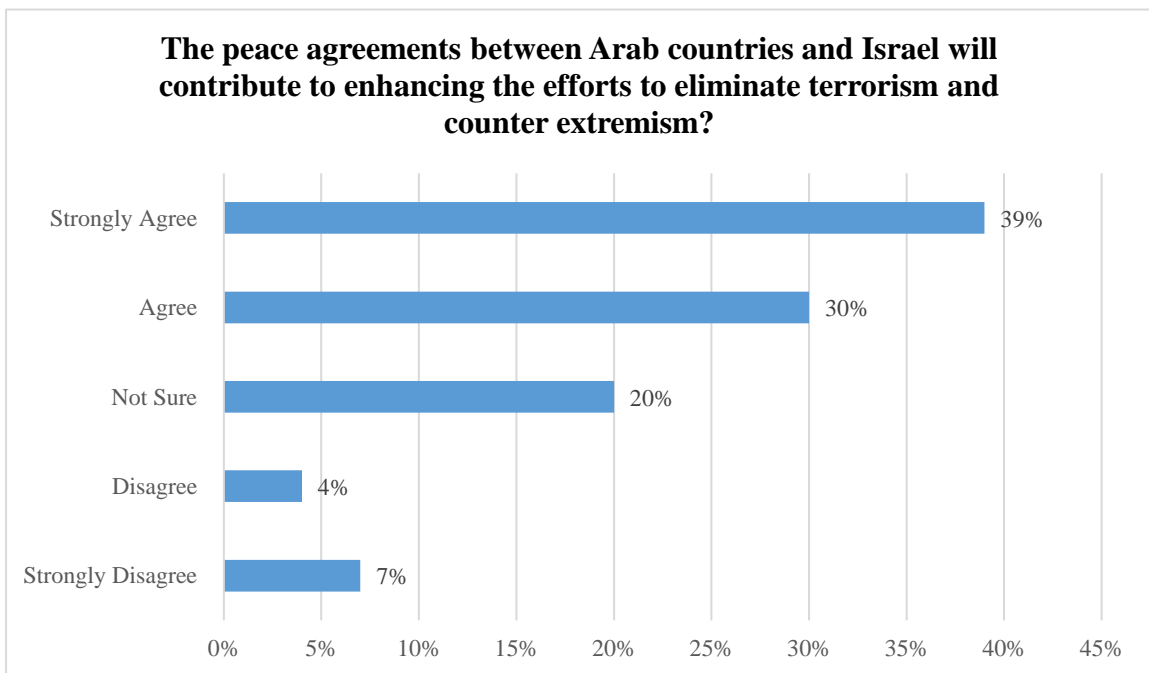
Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
45%	36%	11%	2%	6%



Question Two: Will the peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel enhance the efforts to eliminate terrorism and counter extremism?

As the issue of terrorism and extremism has become a phenomenon of our time, particularly in the Middle East, 69 percent of the participants agreed that the peace agreements would contribute significantly to enhancing the efforts to eliminate terrorism and counter-extremism, while only 11 percent disagreed. This means that the vast majority of total respondents believed that peace would provide a way to support sustainable development in the Middle East.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
39%	30%	20%	4%	7%

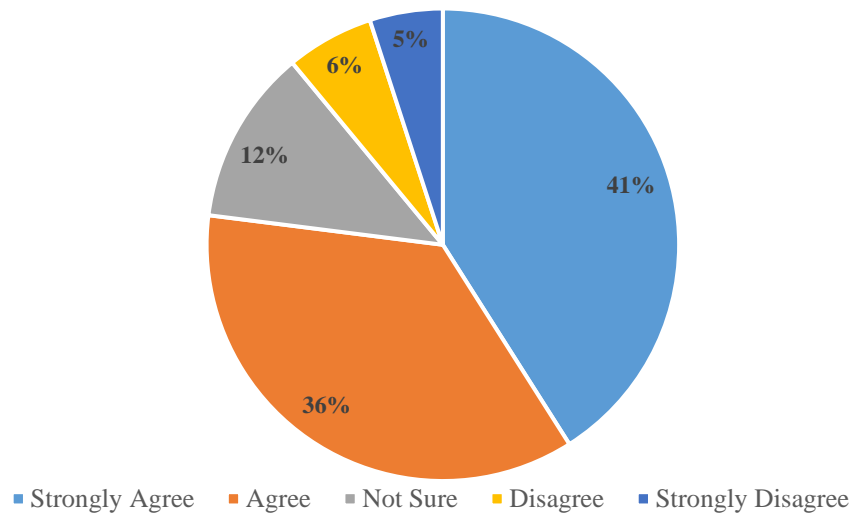


Question Three: Will the peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel contribute to the prosperity and socio-economic development of the region?

- Seventy-seven percent of total respondents agreed that the peace agreements signed between some Arab countries and Israel would contribute significantly to the prosperity and socio-economic development of the region, compared to only 11 percent who disagreed. This reflects the extent of participants' awareness about how socio-economic development is contingent on the achievement of peace in the region.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
41%	36%	12%	6%	5%

The peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel will contribute to the region's prosperity and socio-economic development



Question Four: Will the peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel contribute to finding a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian issue based on a two-state solution?

Given the high importance of the Palestinian issue to many people, 64 percent of the respondents agreed that the peace agreements signed between some Arab countries and Israel would contribute toward finding a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian issue based on a two-state solution. In comparison, only 12 percent didn't agree.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
33%	31%	24%	5%	7%

