



Institut RIDEAU Institute

On International Affairs / Sur les affaires internationales

Edifice Hope Building, 63 Sparks, Suite 608, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A6

t. 613 565-9449 fax/télécopieur 613 249-7091 operations@rideauinstitute.ca www.rideauinstitute.ca

Media Release
For Immediate Release
June 25, 2010

Opinions Mixed on Whether to Influence or Scrap G8/G20 Summits

(Ottawa) Protests this weekend will reflect a mix of concern over the G8/G20 summits' agendas, and objections to the very legitimacy of the meetings themselves, suggests an online survey of "engaged Canadians" by the Rideau Institute.

"There is a discussion going on among people participating in the protests and popular conferences outside of the G8/G20 meetings about how best to advance their commonly held issues of concern," said Steven Staples, president of the Ottawa-based research and advocacy group.

The study employed social media and informal online surveys at www.TheG8G20Agenda.ca to gather responses. One survey found that, given the opportunity, 48% of respondents would choose to be "in the room" with world leaders to influence discussions, while 52% would choose to be "in the streets" with demonstrators protesting the meetings.

"The mood has shifted from an attempt to influence the discussions of the world leaders to a questioning of the very legitimacy of the meetings themselves as the summits have approached," added Staples, himself a former organizer of the famous WTO protests in Seattle a decade ago.

While there may be a difference of opinion on how best to tackle global problems, there is greater consensus on the priorities engaged Canadians want to see addressed by world leaders.

When asked to rate the importance of ten issues, respondents overwhelmingly focused on the environment. "The right to clean water" (91%) and "global warming" (86%) were chosen most often as "very important" topics for leaders to discuss, followed closely by "food security and hunger" (85%) and "global peace and nuclear disarmament" (77%). Issues most often chosen as "not important at all" were "Iran's nuclear program" (24%) and "security and terrorism" (19%).

The Rideau Institute conducted its study between June 7 and June 25, 2010, analyzing survey responses, comments, and other social media data created by 3,014 visitors to www.TheG8G20Agenda.ca over the two-week period. Selected tables of responses and comments are available for download from www.rideauinstitute.ca.

- 30-

For information, contact Steven Staples, President of the Rideau Institute
t. 613 565-9449, c. 613 290-2695, e. ss Staples@rideauinstitute.ca

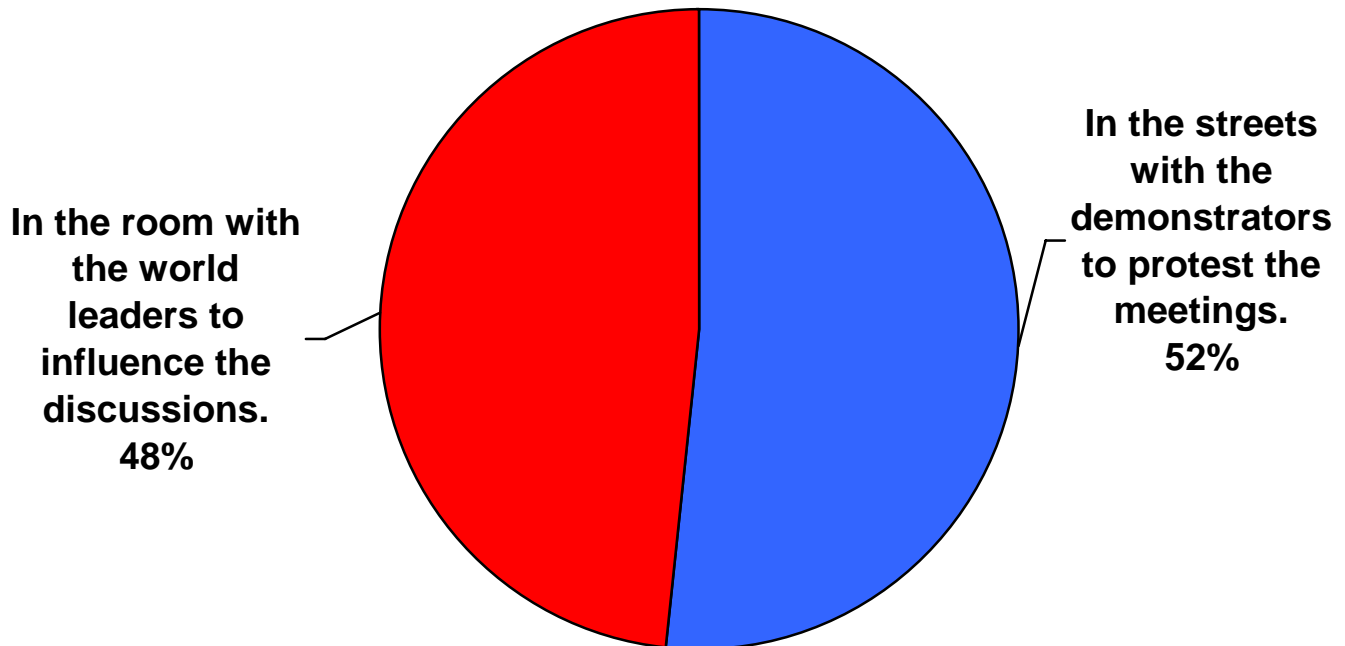
**“Opinions Mixed on Whether to Influence or to Scrap
G8/G20 Summits”
Rideau Institute**

**Supporting Graphs
June 25, 2010**

Given the opportunity, where would you be during the G8/G20 meetings this weekend?

Poll dates: June 23 – June 25, 2010

Responses: 457

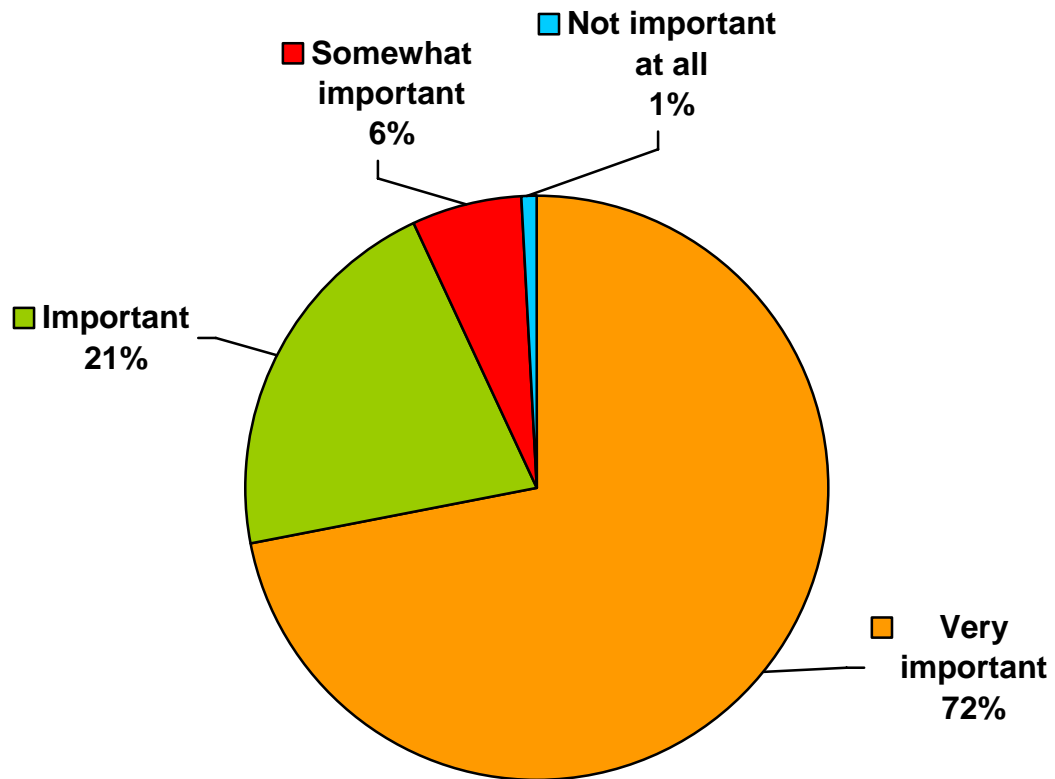


Which problems do you think world leaders should solve during the G8 and G20 summits?

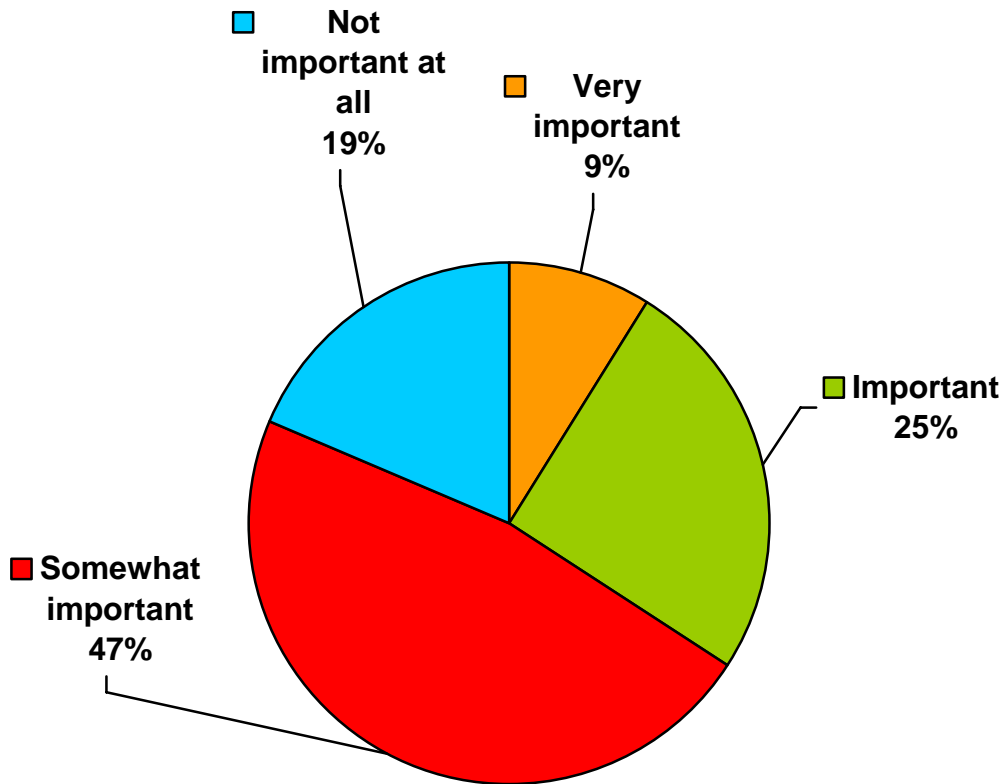
Poll Dates: June 7 – June 25, 2010

Responses: 1190

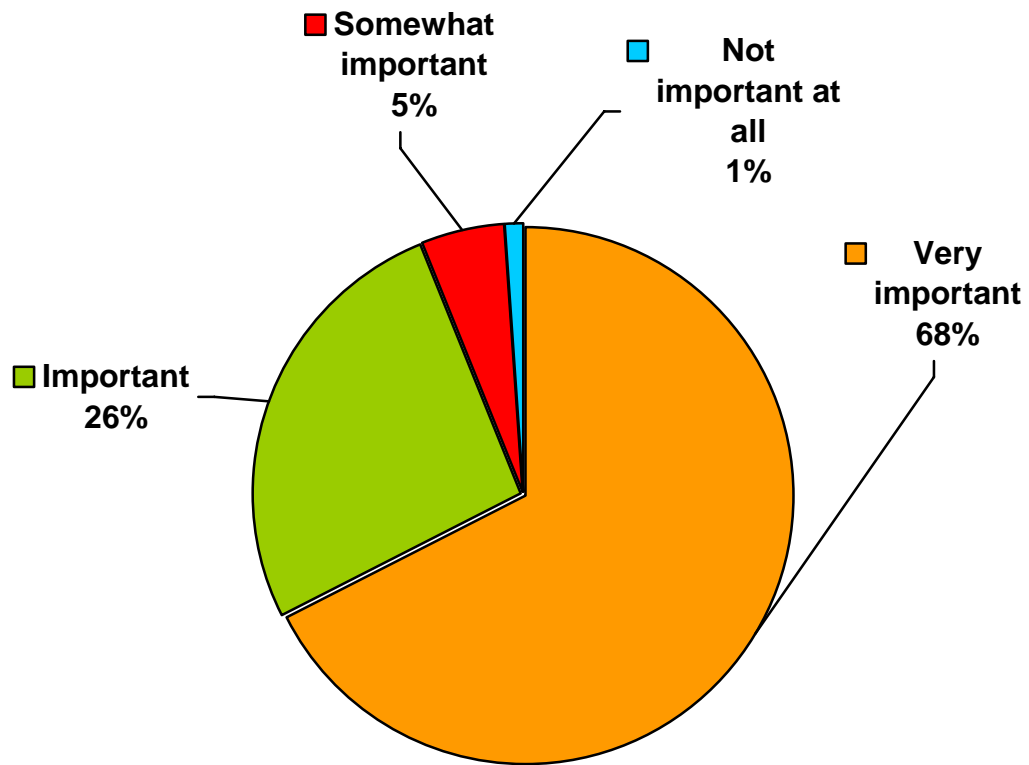
1. How important is it to discuss financial regulations of corporations?



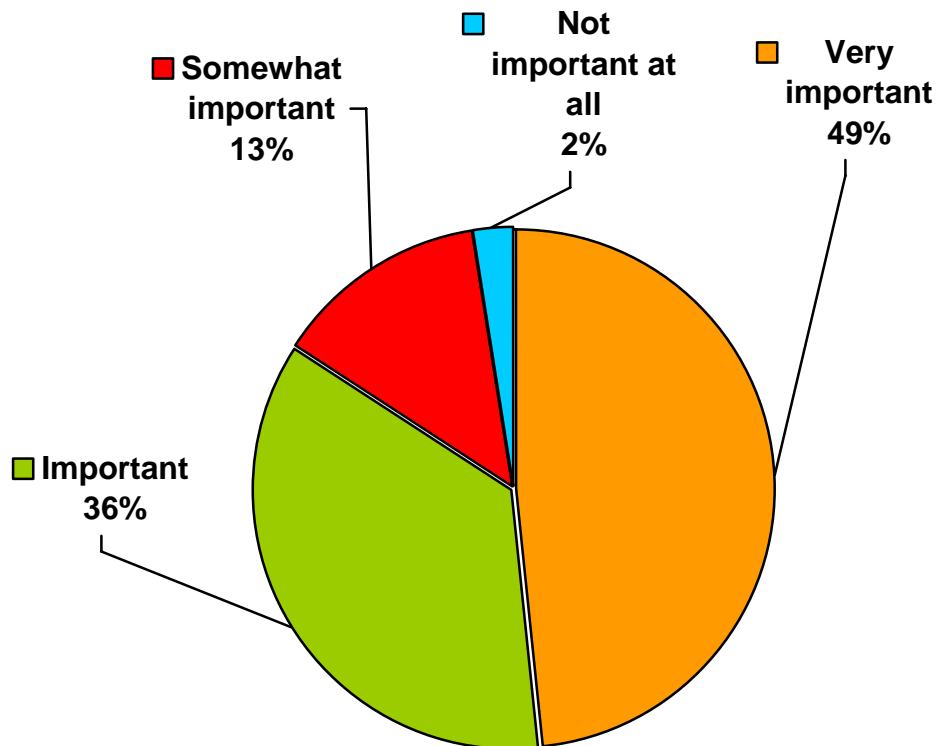
2. How important is it to discuss security and terrorism?



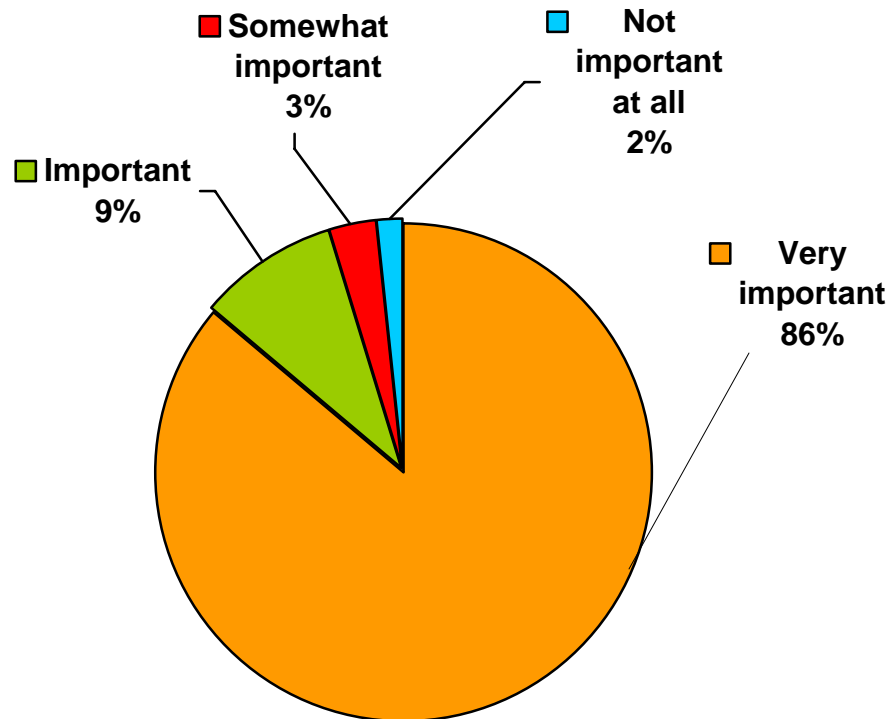
3. How important is it to discuss women's health in developing nations?



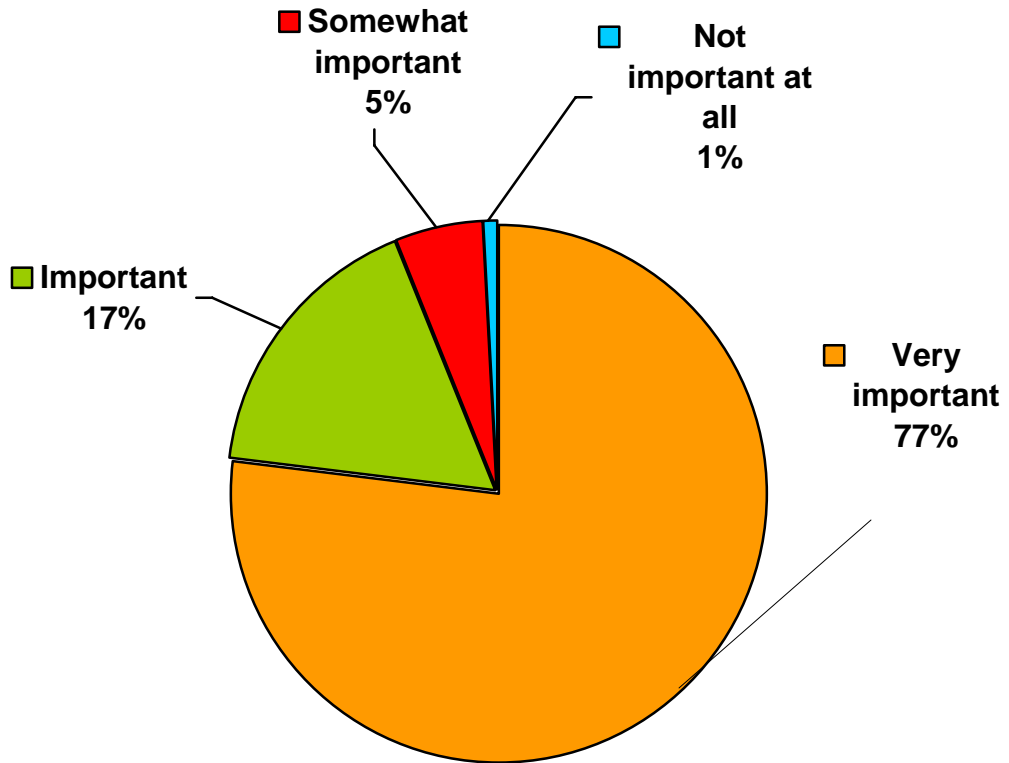
4. How important is it to discuss HIV/AIDS?



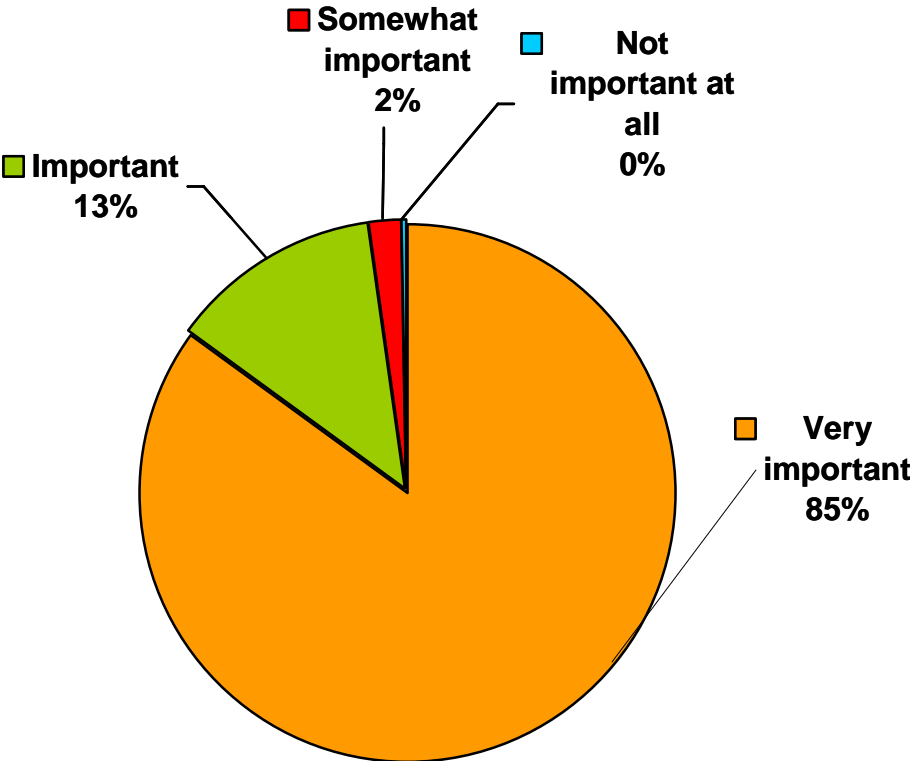
5. How important is it to discuss global warming?



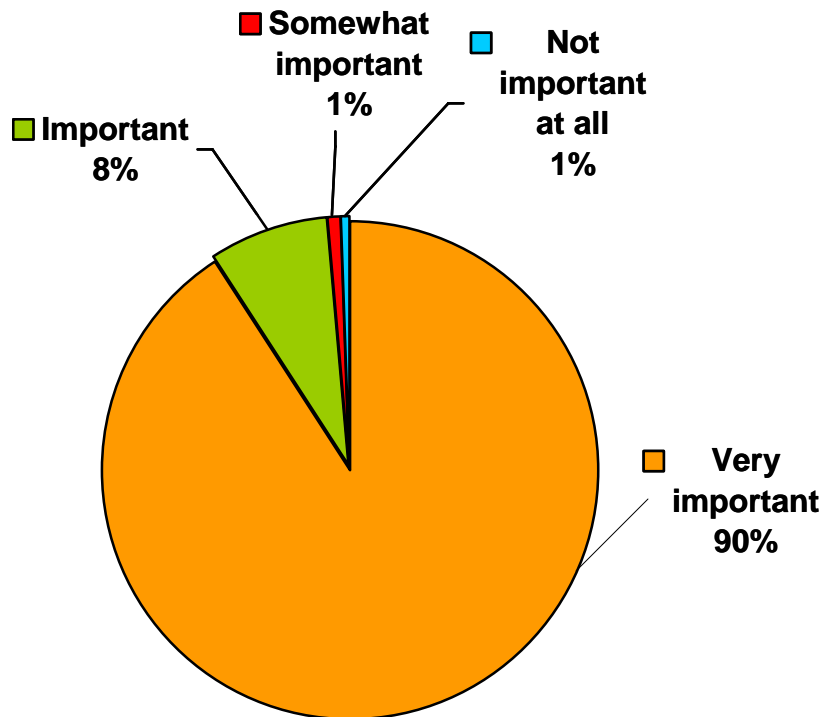
6. How important is it to discuss global peace and nuclear disarmament?



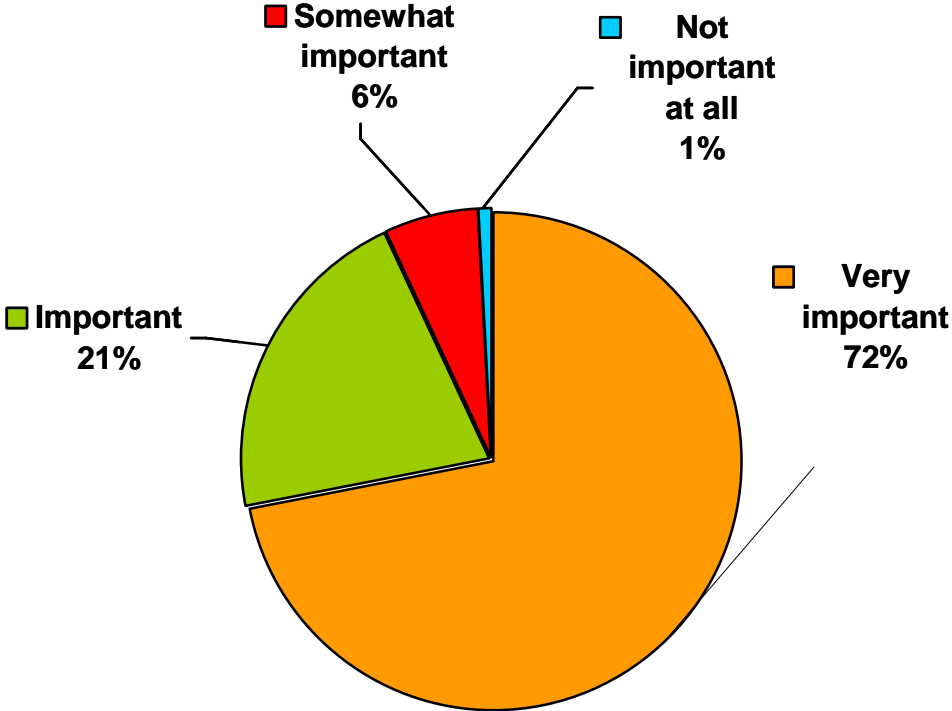
7. How important is it to discuss food security and hunger?



8. How important is it to discuss the right to clean water?



9. How important is it to discuss fair trade agreements ?



10. How important is it to discuss Iran's nuclear program?

