

Global Challenges Foundation Risk Survey:  
**The Pulse of International Sentiment**



**Global Challenges Foundation**

**Background:** TNS was commissioned by the Global Challenges Foundation to conduct a quantitative survey of public views on climate change, poverty and armed conflicts, among other things, in 9 countries around the world.

**Method:** Web surveys from on-line panels. About 1000 interviews were conducted as web surveys. Results for this survey are based on samples from web panels, using 1000 interviews per country. The statistical margin of error is  $\pm 6$  percent points in every region (populations in every region is large enough for the margin of error not to vary between them). Samples are stratified and picked randomly to reflect official national demographics. To fully reflect the demographics, they have been weighted into four age groups for each region. Interviews in India were conducted in English.

**Field period:** February - May 2014



**Target group:** The public at large, ages over 18, in 9 countries. The countries being surveyed were Brazil, the United States, China, Russia, Poland, Germany, India, South Africa and Sweden.

#### Number of Interviews

Brazil: 1005 China: 1001 USA: 1002  
Russia: 1001 Poland: 1000  
Germany: 1001 India: 1001  
Sweden: 1001 South Africa: 1027



The Pulse of International Sentiment  
**Climate change**



**Global Challenges Foundation**

## The Pulse of International Sentiment

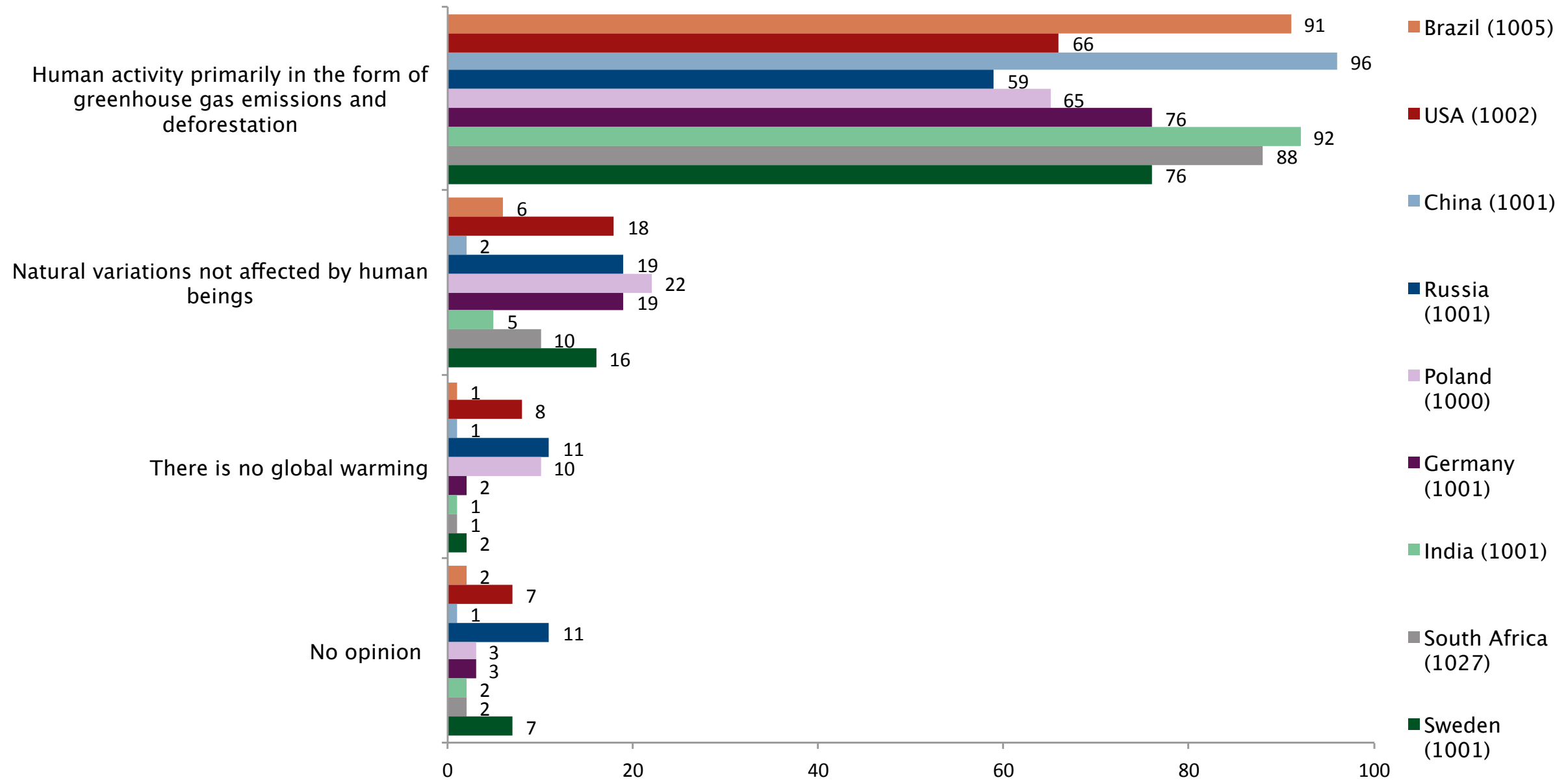
### Climate change – Summery

- In China (96%), India (92%) and Brazil (91%) more than 9 out of 10 believe that global warming is primarily due to human influences such as greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation. The corresponding figure in South Africa is 88%. Among those asked in Germany and Sweden 76% answers the same, which is a much lower percentage. In the US (66%) and Poland (65%), the proportion of people who believe that global warming is due to human factors such as greenhouse gas emissions is less. Among Americans (8%) and Poles (10%) even more state that they do not believe that global warming is in fact occurring.
- Each of the participating countries report a very large amount of participants who believe that climate change is a serious threat to humanity. Poland (22%), US (19%), Germany (16%) and Sweden (16%) stand out as the countries where the highest proportion believe that climate change is not at all or probably not a threat to humanity, compared to South Africa (6%), Brazil (5%), India (3%) and China (1%).
- Among the participating countries China (72%) is the country where the largest percentage of respondents indicated that they feel the political decisions in the world are sufficient to avert the risks of extreme climate disasters. In other countries at least half say that decisions are not at all or probably not sufficient, especially participants in South Africa (84%), Brazil (78%), Sweden (78%) and Germany (77%).
- A clear majority in all countries believes that binding international decisions against climate change should be made. United States (22%), followed by Poland (13%) are the two countries where the greatest proportion of people would not at all or probably not agree.



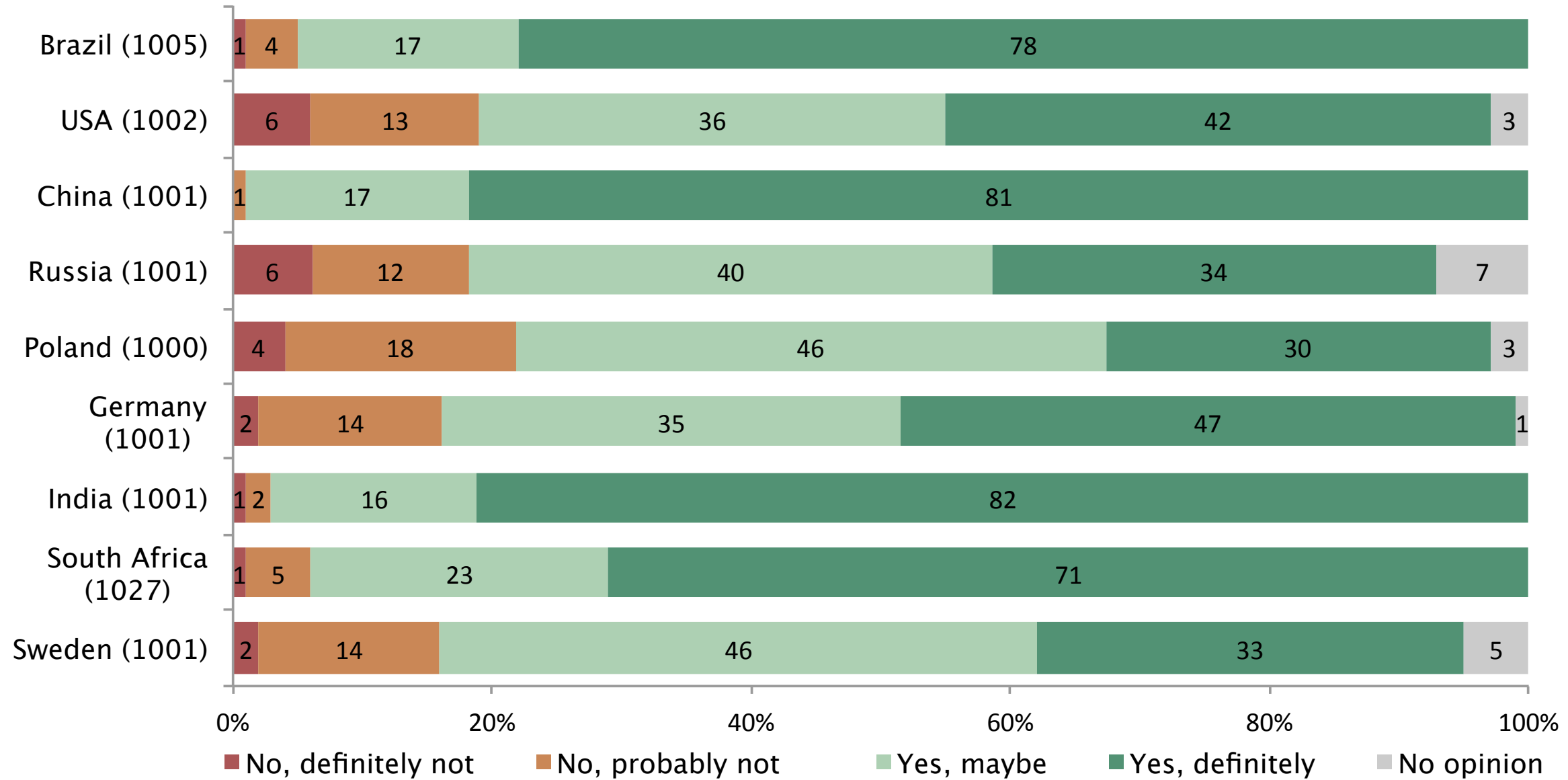
## Q1. What do you think is the main reason for global warming?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

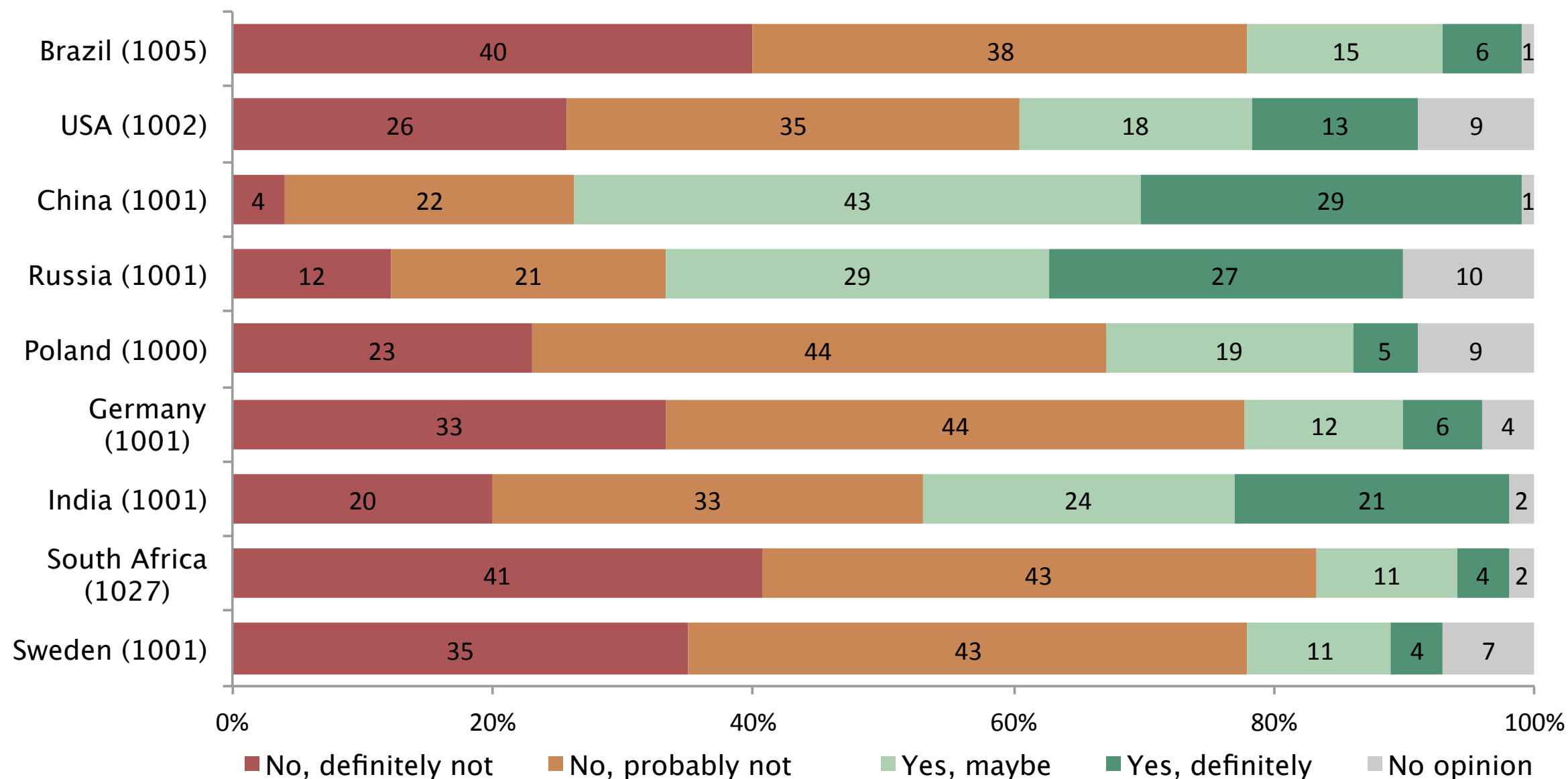


## Q2. Do you regard climate change as a severe threat to mankind?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

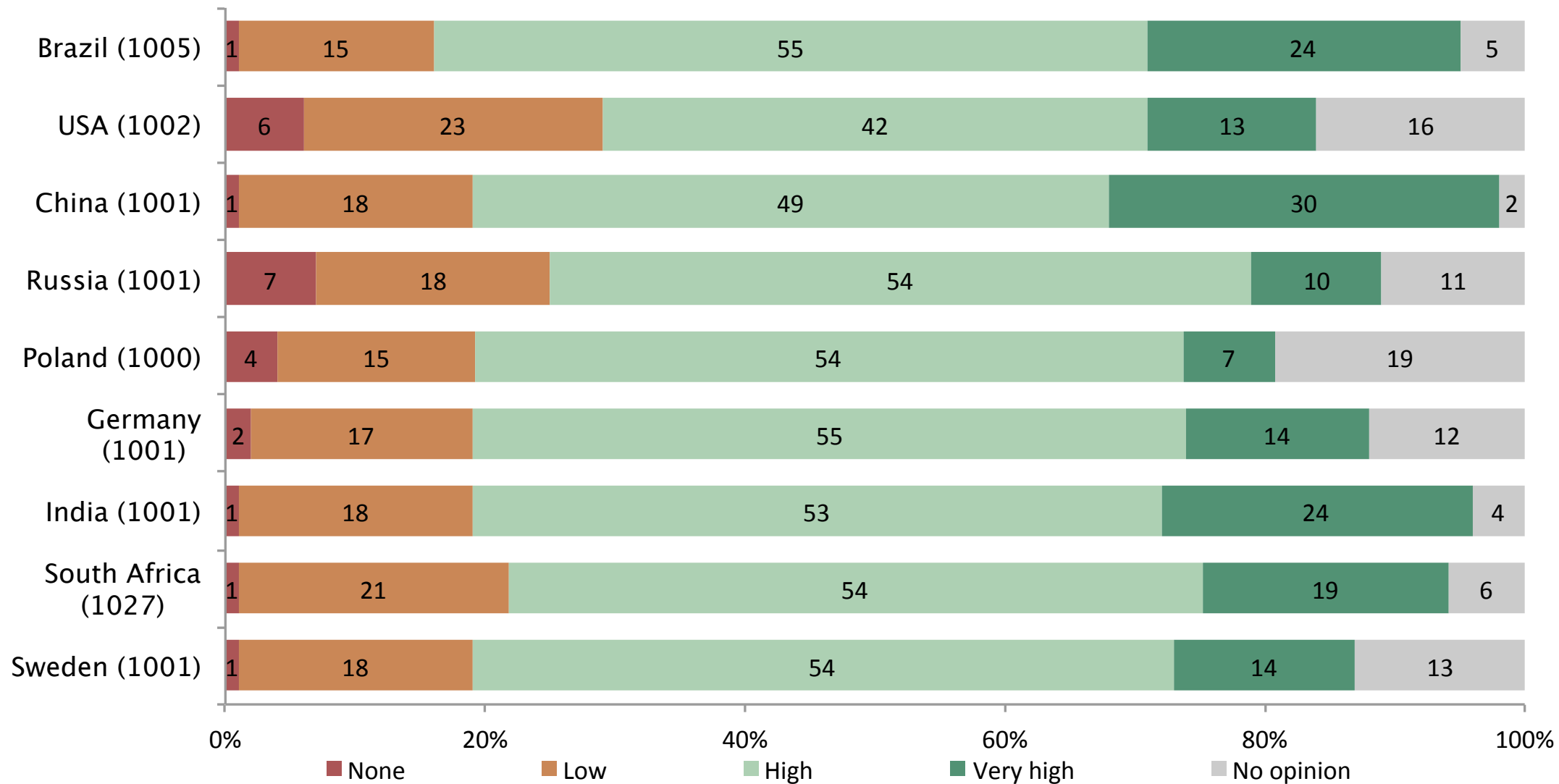


Q3. Do you think enough is being done politically to counteract climate change in order to eliminate the risk of extreme climate catastrophes? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



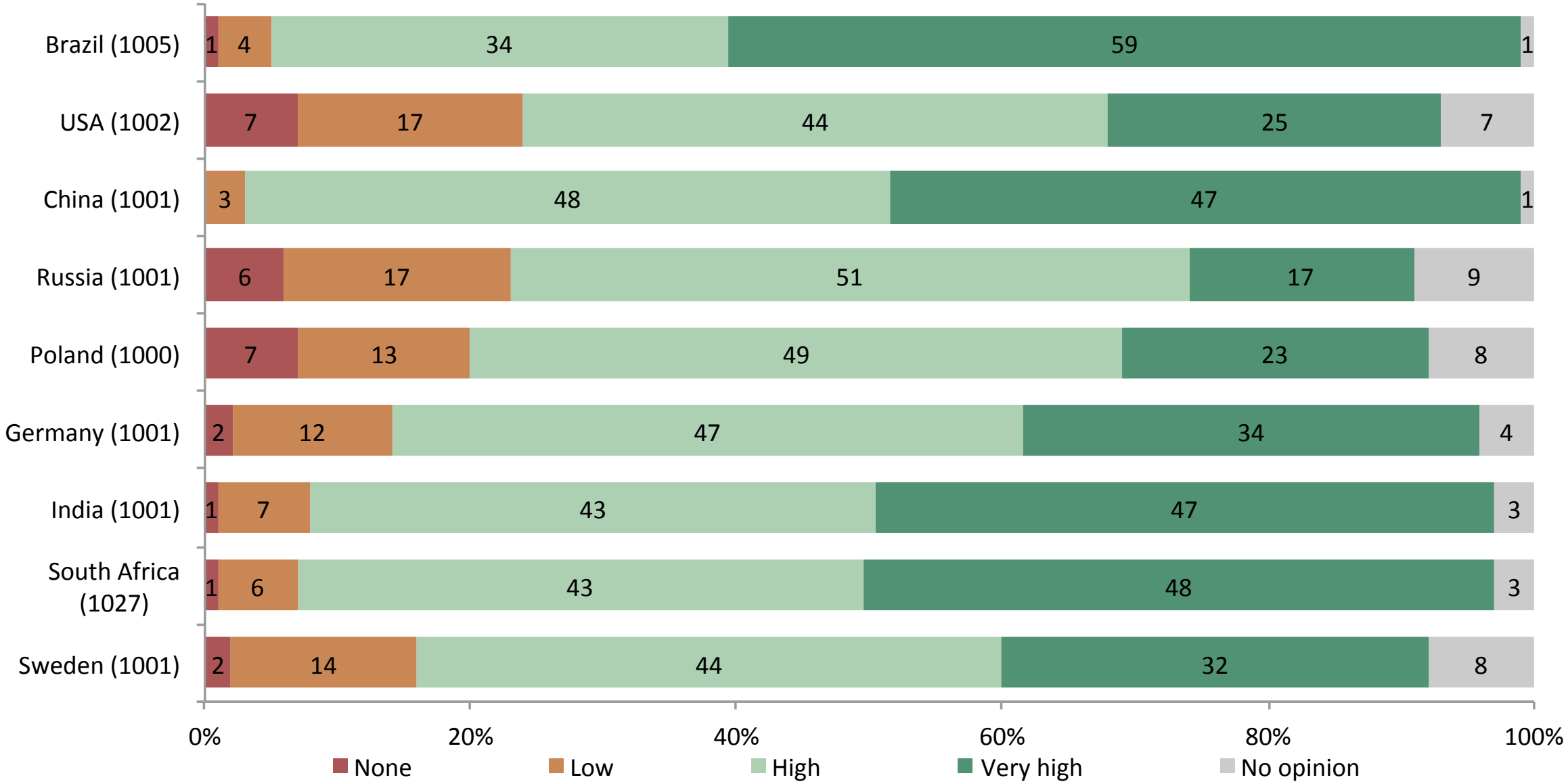
Q4. The goal of the UN is that the average temperature of the earth should not increase by more than 2°Celsius. If the increase could be successfully limited to 2°C, how high is the risk that we will *still* be affected by extreme climate catastrophes?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

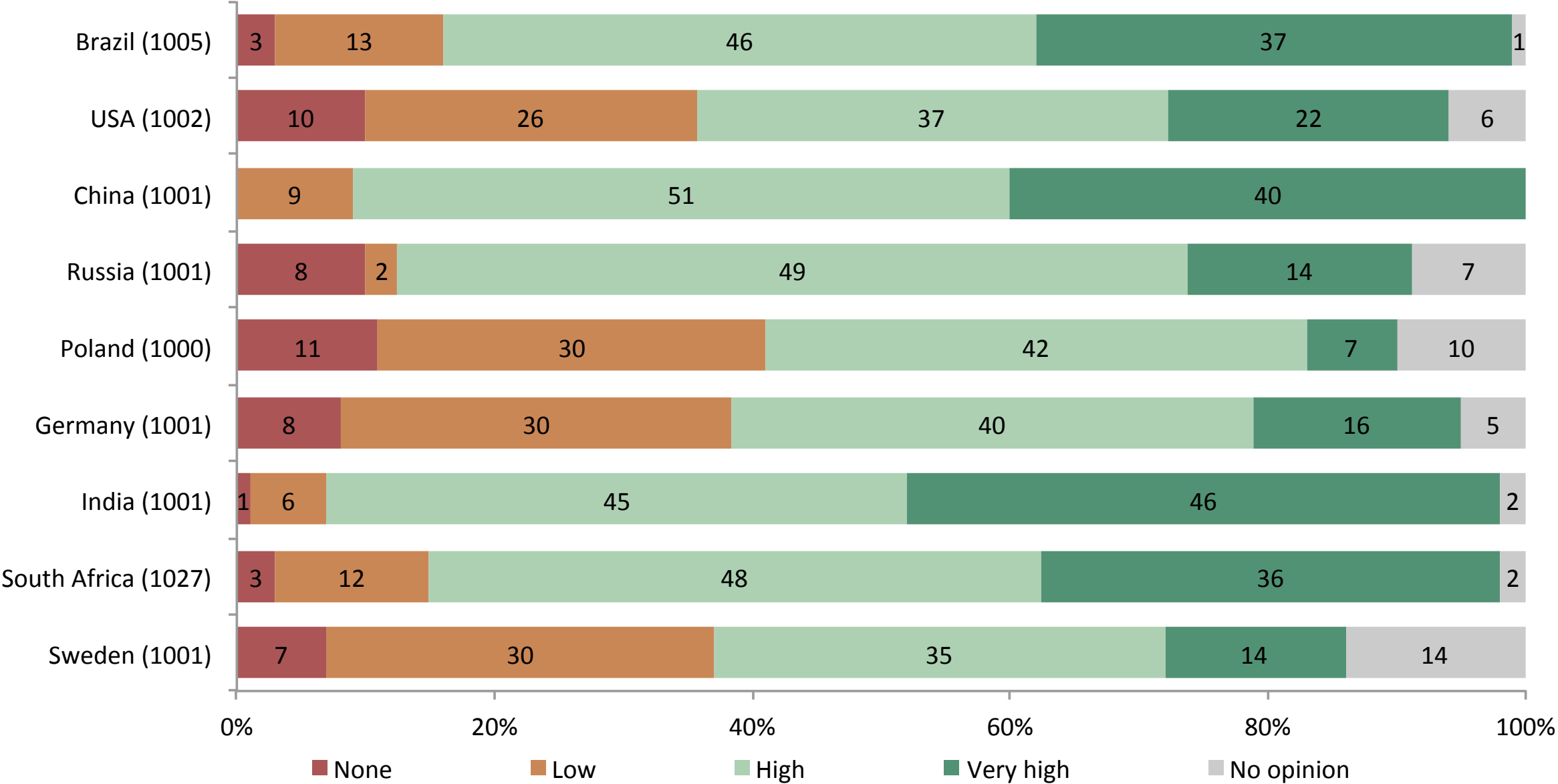




Q5. How would you evaluate the risk for extreme climate catastrophes if the emission of greenhouse gases is not radically reduced? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

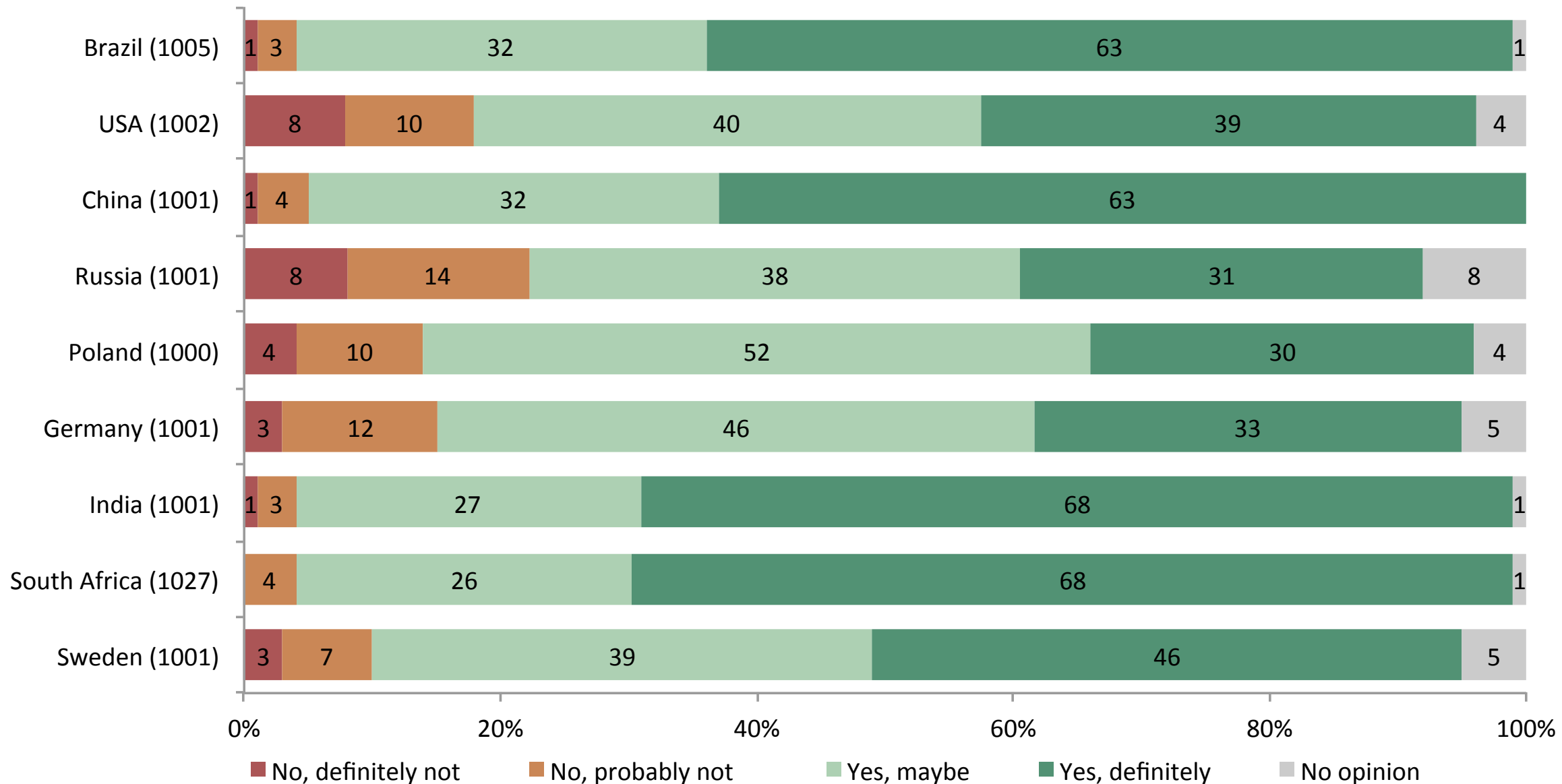


Q6. How large do you think the risk is that climate change, in the long run, will lead to an uninhabitable earth? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q7. Do you think we should try to prevent extreme climate catastrophes, which might not occur for several centuries, even if it requires considerable sacrifices from us today?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



The Pulse of International Sentiment

# **Environmental damage – beyond climate change**



**Global Challenges Foundation**

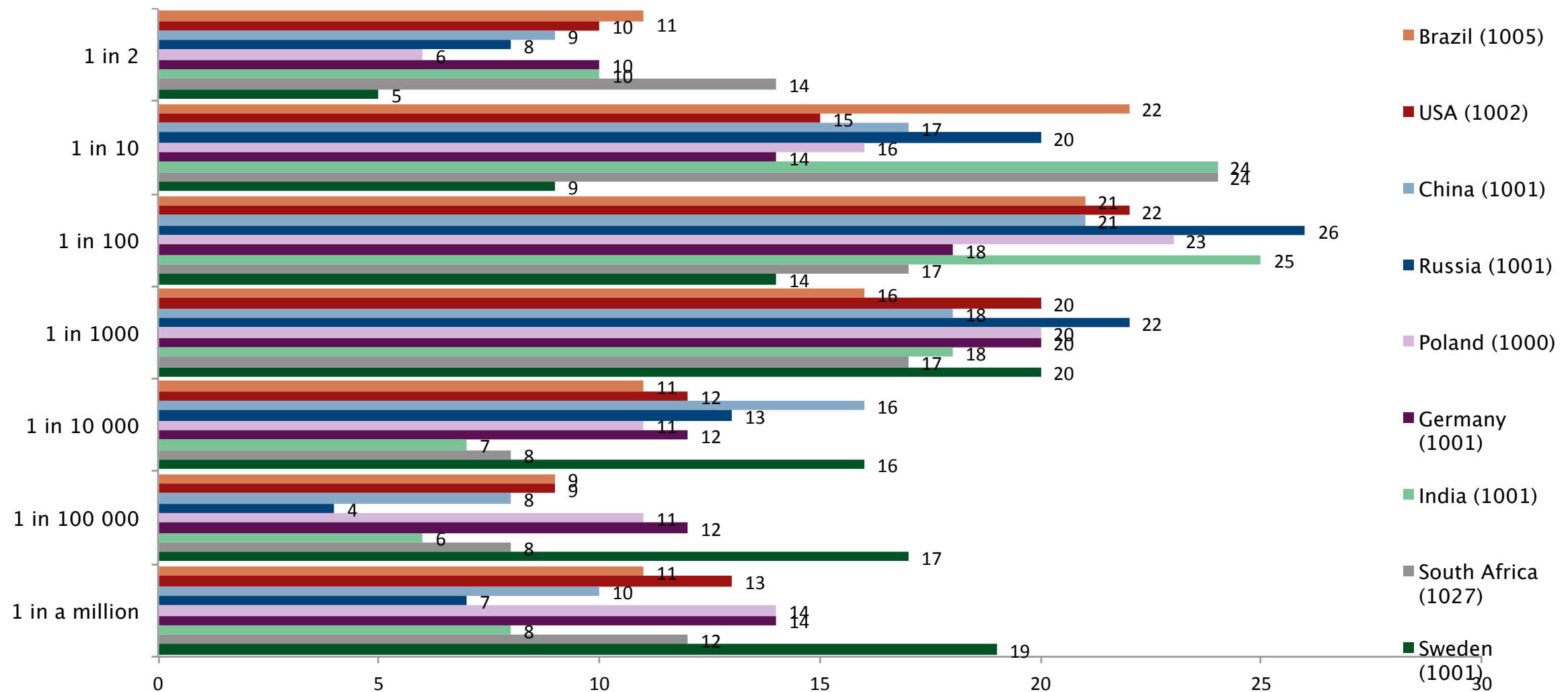
## The Pulse of International Sentiment

### Environmental damage, beyond climate change – Summery

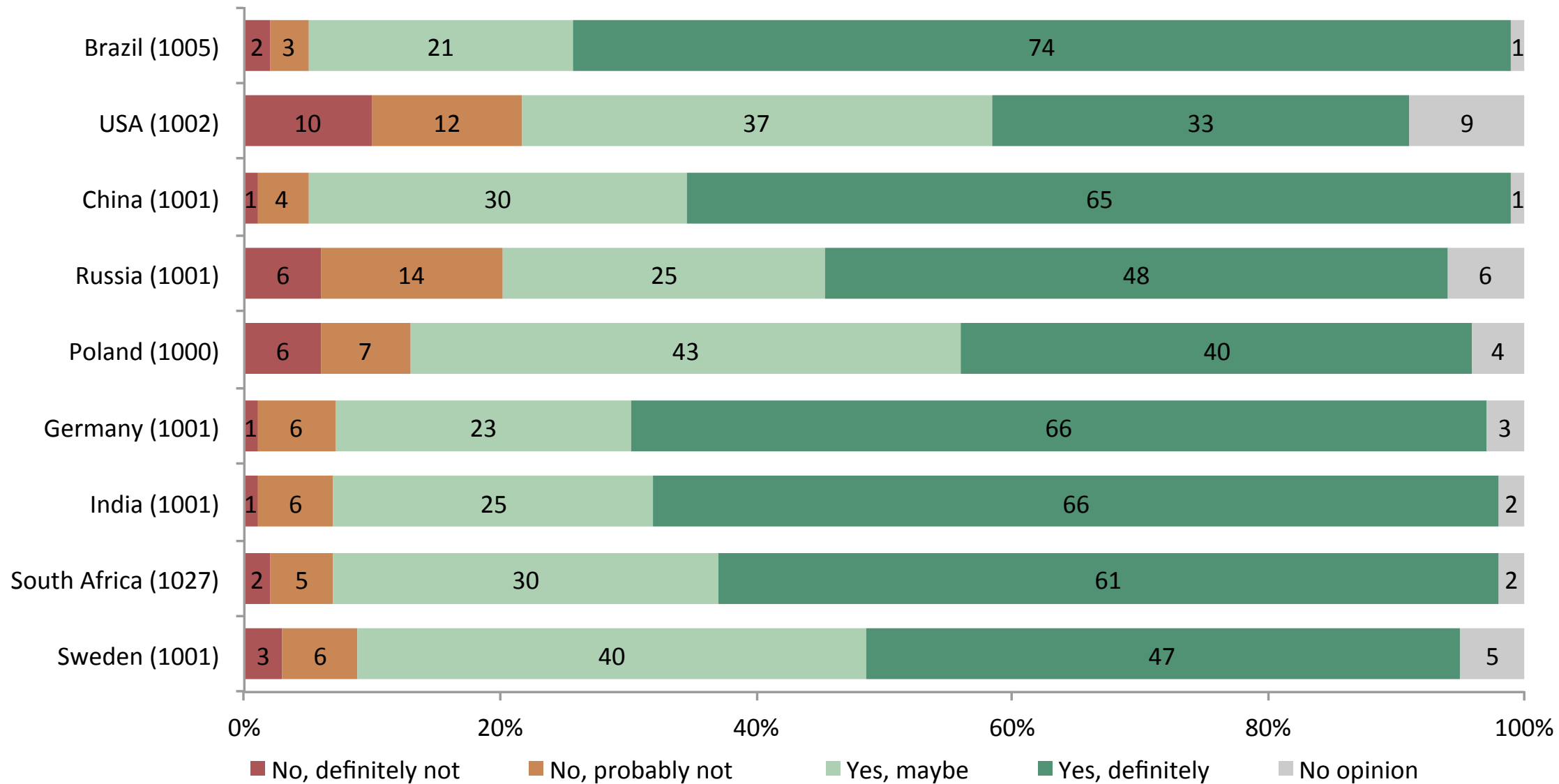
- Sweden (76%) followed by Germany (66%) are the two countries where the greatest proportion of respondents answer that the earth's resources are not at all or probably not enough for all people to acquire the same material standard of living as the developed countries have today. Only 21% of Swedes believe that the earth's resources probably or definitely are enough for all people to get the same material standard of living compared to, for example, 54% in India, 49% in China and 48% in Brazil and the United States. The corresponding figures in Germany and South Africa are 31% and 36% respectively.
- Few of the respondents in the participating countries state that they do not see environmental degradation as a serious threat to humanity. United States (11%) is the country where the largest proportion answer that environmental degradation is not at all or probably not a major threat to mankind.
- One in four Americans (25%) say that people should not accept some or small sacrifices in order to not expose our children and future generations to the damage and the risks that environmental degradation entails, followed by Sweden (17%) and Germany (16%). US participants are also those that to the greatest extent are unfavorable to that binding international decisions against environmental degradation should be made (17%).



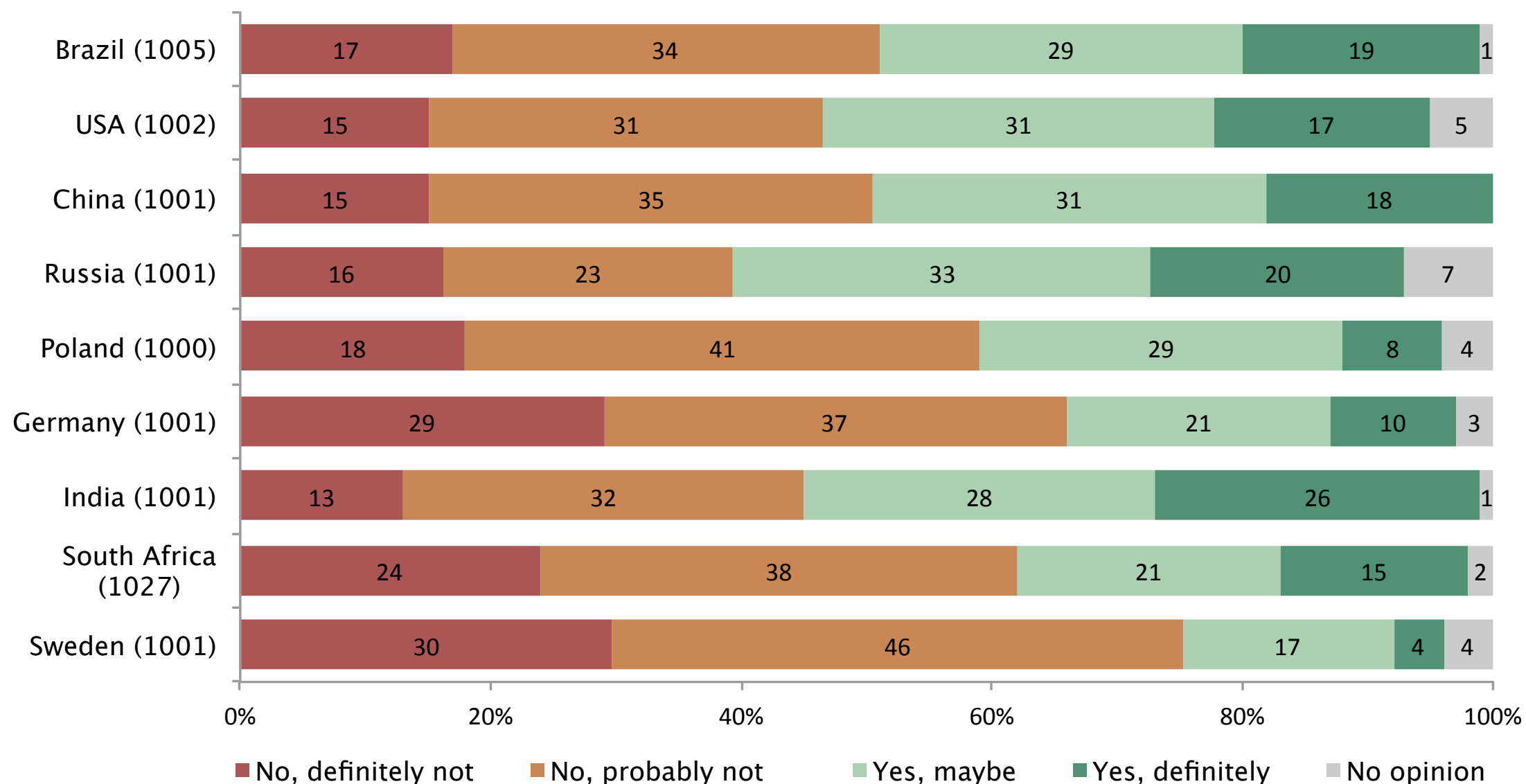
Q8. How high a risk of extreme catastrophes do you think politicians should be allowed to accept without implementing effective countermeasures? They can accept a risk of approximately? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q9. Do you think mandatory international decisions should be made against climate change? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

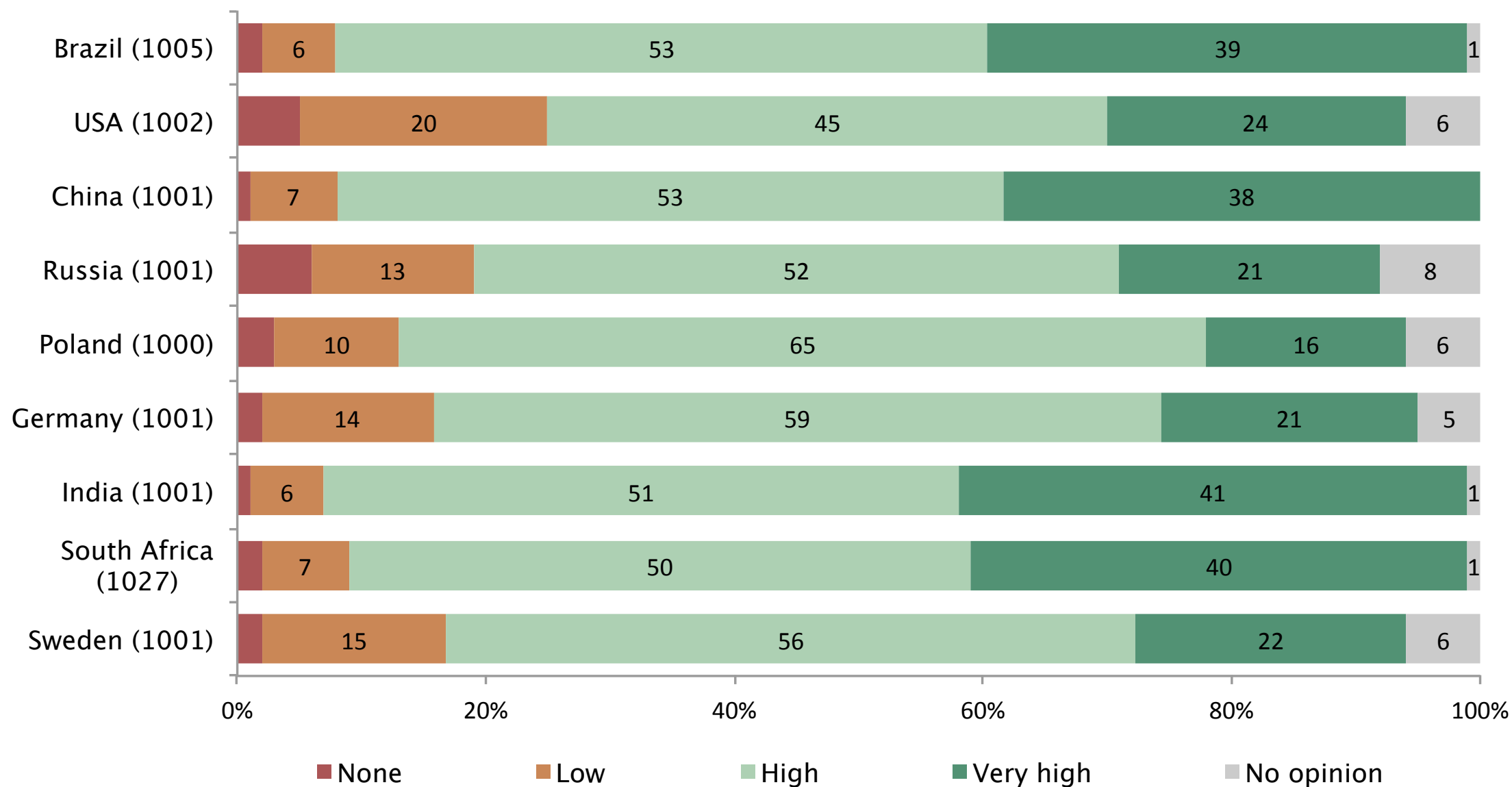


Q10. Given today's technology, do you think that the natural resources of the earth are sufficient to provide everyone on earth with the same material standard of living as in the industrialized countries today? *Base presented in parentheses next to each country.*

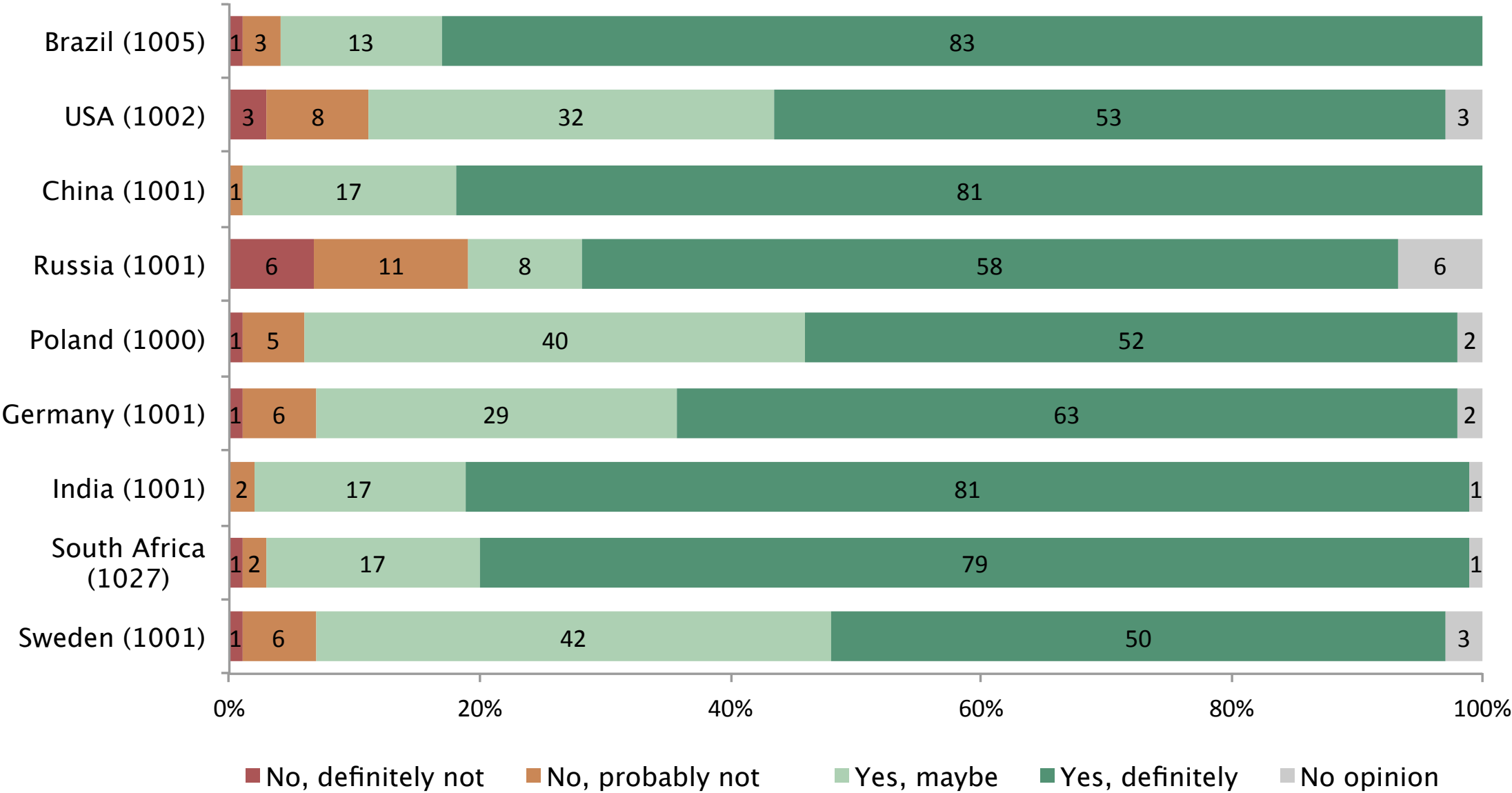




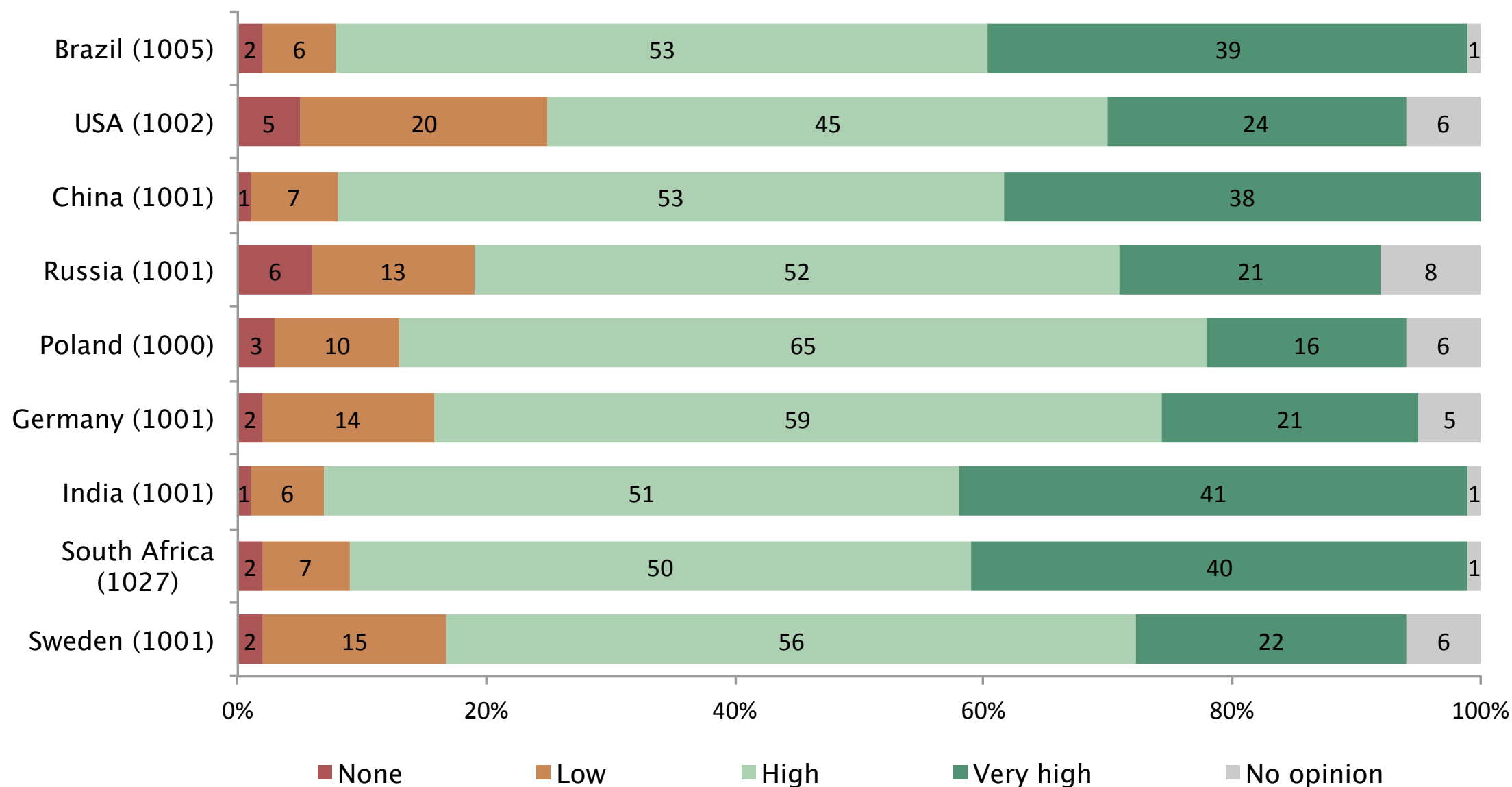
Q11. If your answer to the above question is no, how many planet earths would be required to provide the world population with the same material standard as in today's industrialized nations? *Base presented in parentheses next to each country.*



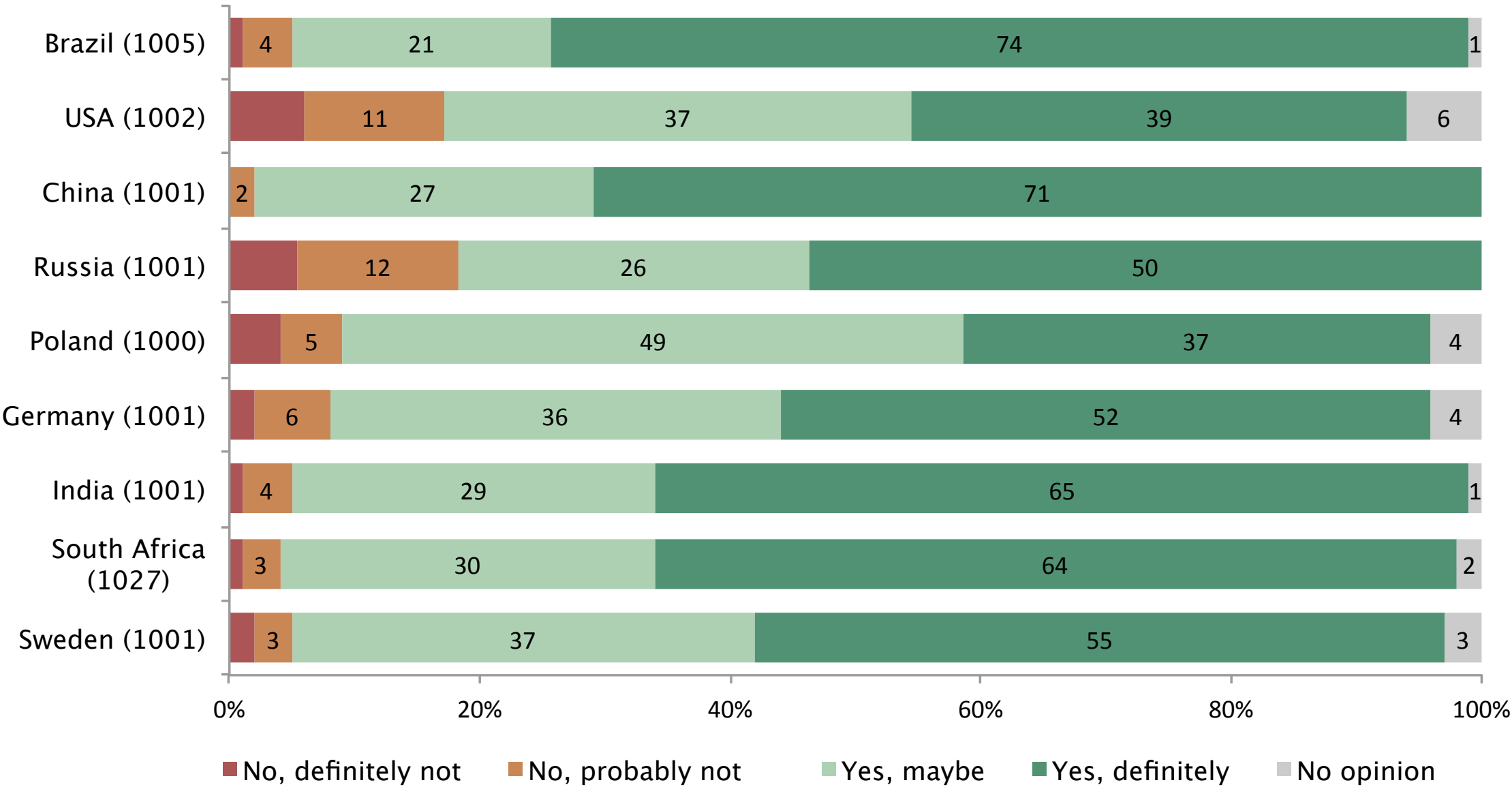
Q12. Do you believe that environmental pollution is a serious threat to mankind in the future? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



Q13. What level of sacrifices do you think people should accept so as not to expose our children and future generations to the damages and risks brought about by environmental pollution? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



Q14. Do you believe that enforceable international resolutions should be taken against environmental pollution? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



The Pulse of International Sentiment

# Political violence



Global Challenges Foundation

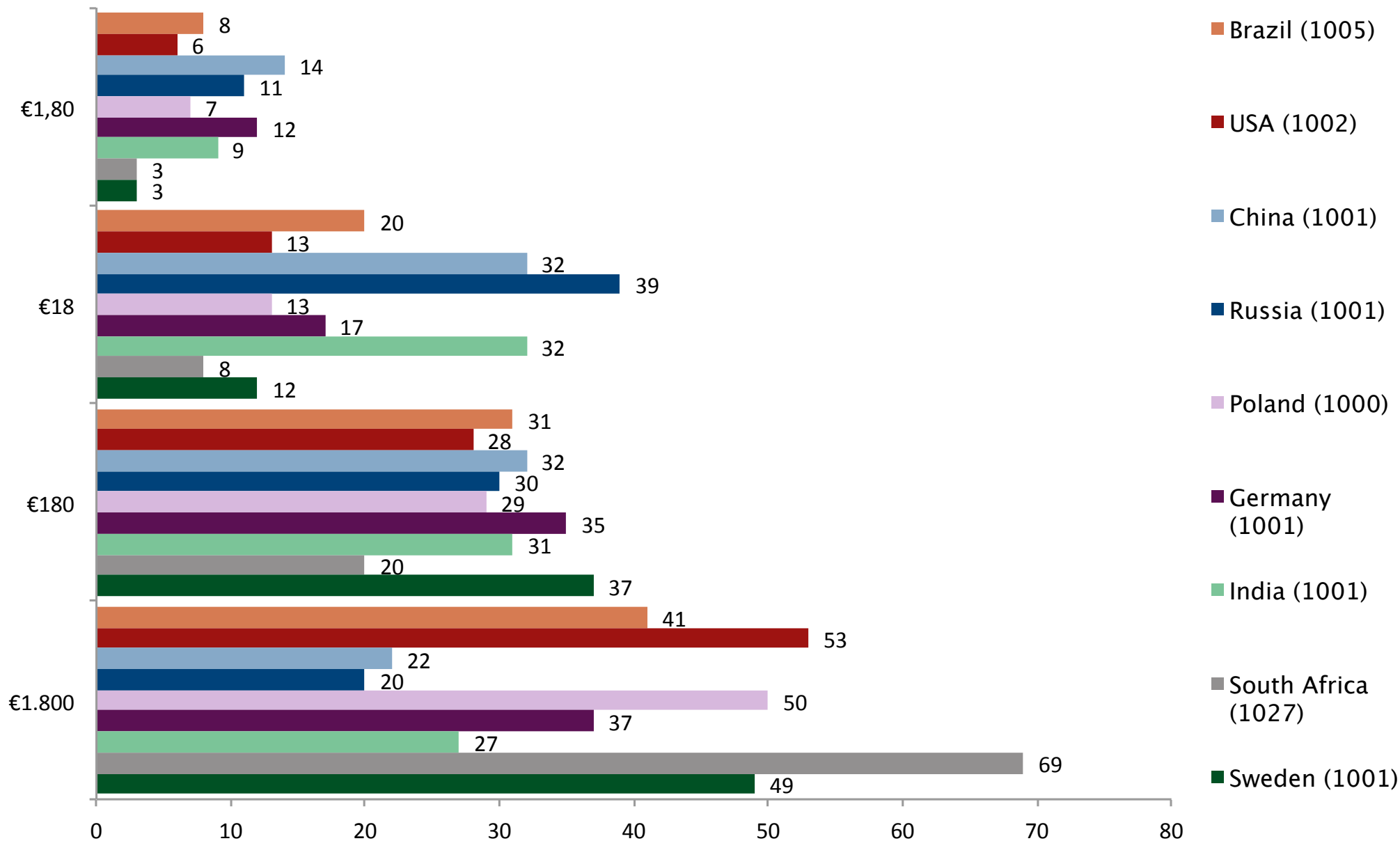
## The Pulse of International Sentiment

### Political violence – Summary

- A large majority in all countries, at least 8 out of 10, recognizes that the existence of weapons of mass destruction probably or definitely is a future threat to humanity. In Brazil (75%), South Africa (74%) and India (72%) around 3 out of 4 believe that weapons of mass destruction definitely are a threat to humanity. The corresponding figure among the Swedish participants is 46%. Sweden is also the country where the highest number (15%) say they do not believe that the existence of weapons of mass destruction pose any threat.
- A majority of the participating countries believe that the risk is high or very high that nuclear weapons will be used again; it is particularly true in China (87%), India (86%) and Brazil (86%). Sweden (40%) followed by Germany (32%) are the two countries with the largest proportion of respondents believing that the risk is small or nonexistent.
- Furthermore considerably more than half of the respondents in the participating countries believe that the risk of using biological or chemical weapons on a larger scale is high or very high. China (94%), India (86%) and Brazil (84%) are again the three countries with the largest proportion experiencing the risk as high.
- In all participating countries, except the United States, at least 8 out of 10 of respondents said that people should do great or very great sacrifices to prevent war. Among the American participants 73% stated that one should accept great sacrifices to avoid armed conflict.  
A clear majority of the population in all participating countries, more than 8 out of 10, also believes that binding international decisions should be made in order to prevent future wars. United States (12%) is the country where the highest proportion say that they do not want to impose binding international decisions in order to prevent armed conflicts, followed by Sweden (7%) and Germany (6%).

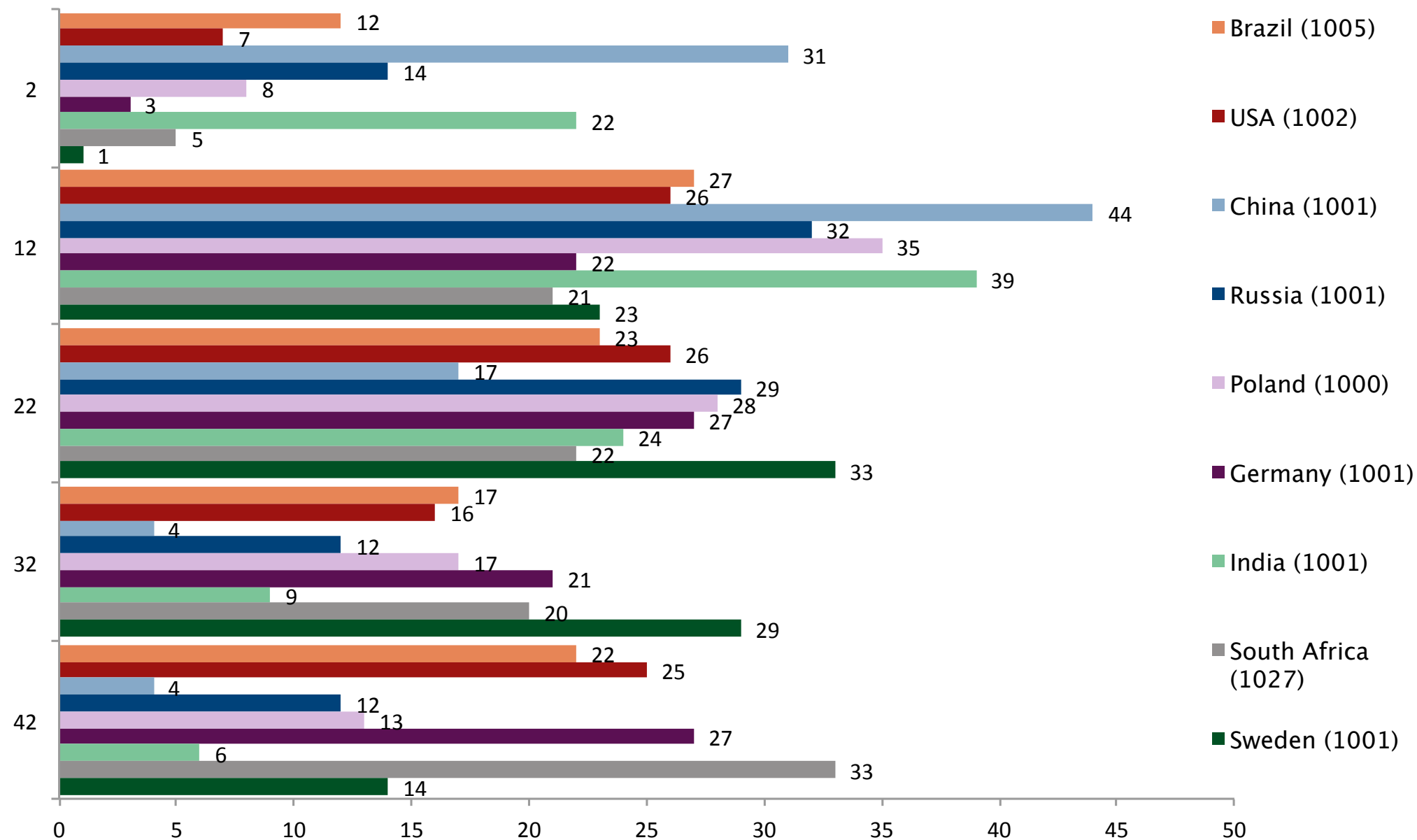


Q15. How much do you think is spent per capita on annual military expenditures worldwide? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q16. How many serious armed conflicts do you think took place worldwide in 2012?

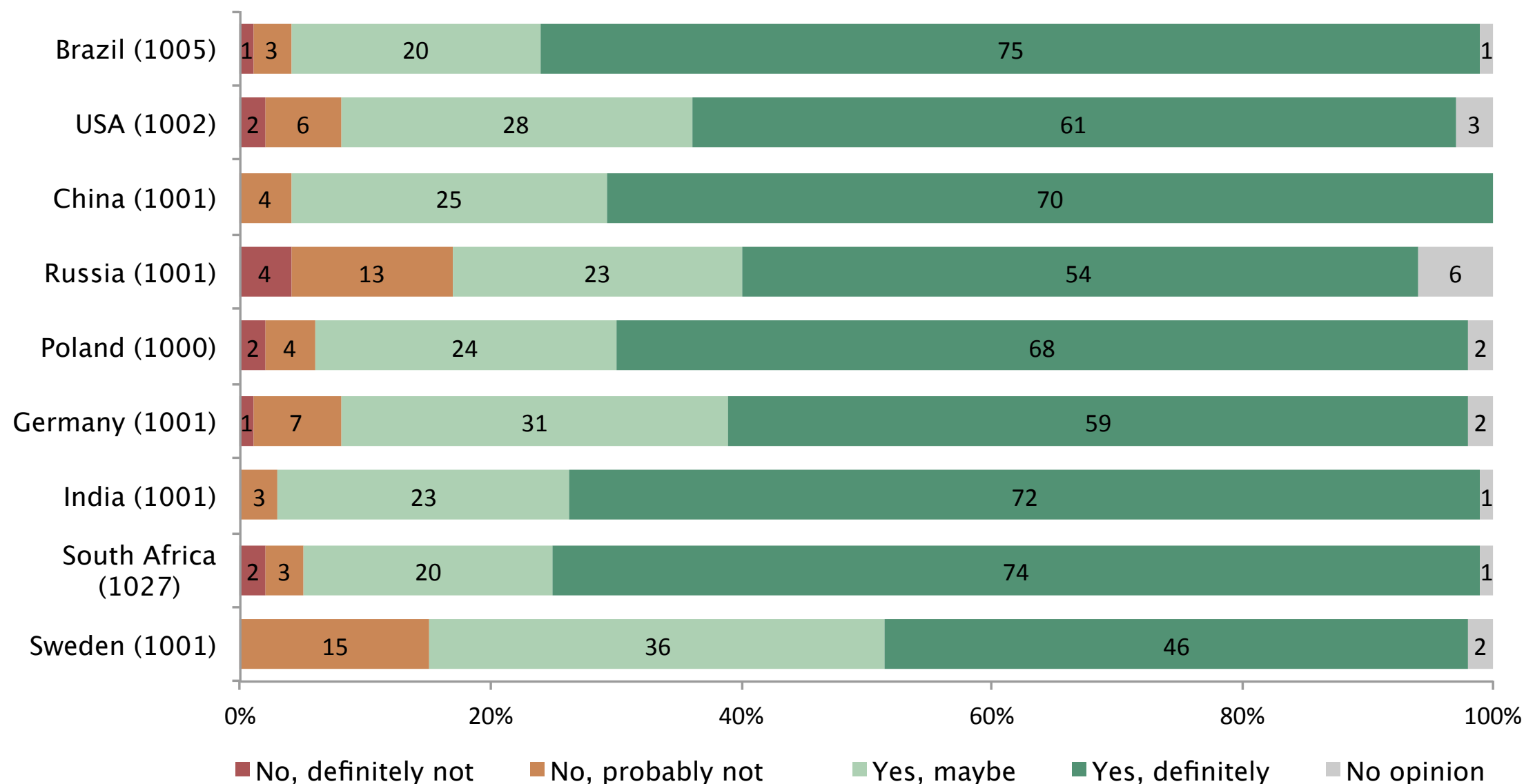
Base presented in parentheses next to each country.





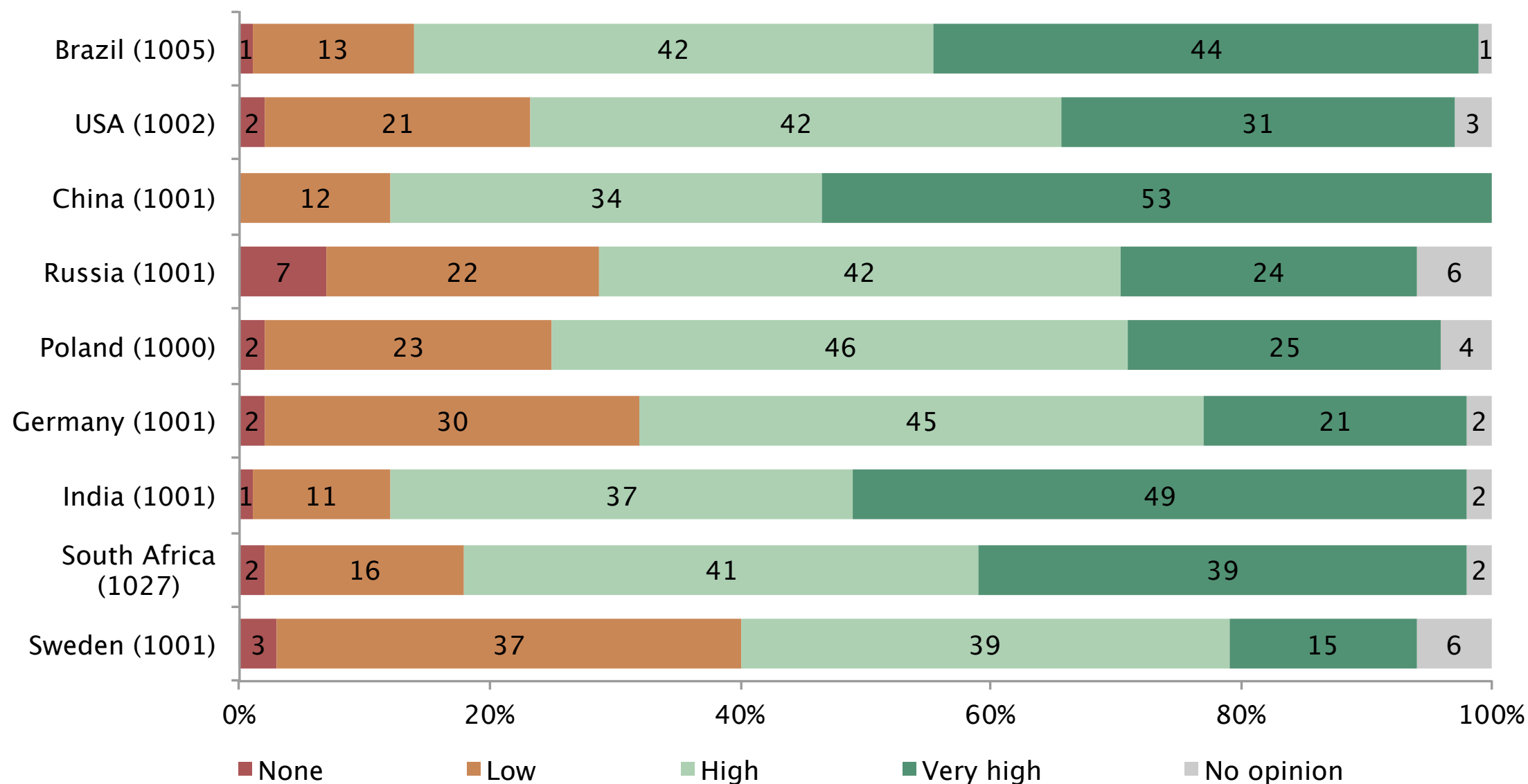
# Q17. Do you believe that the existence of weapons of mass destruction, i.e., nuclear weapons, biological weapons and chemical weapons, is a future threat to mankind?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

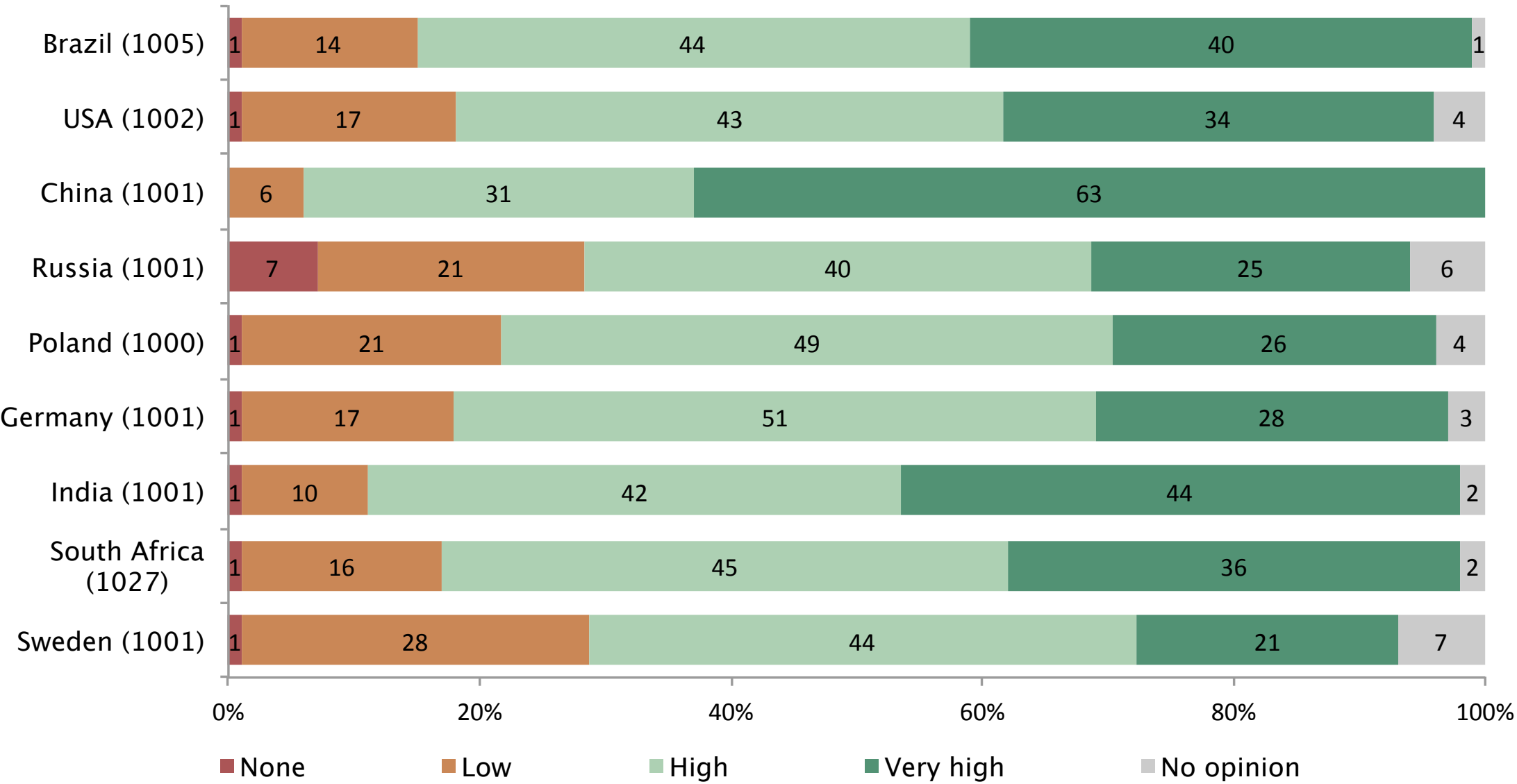


## Q18. How do you rate the risk that nuclear weapons will be used again?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

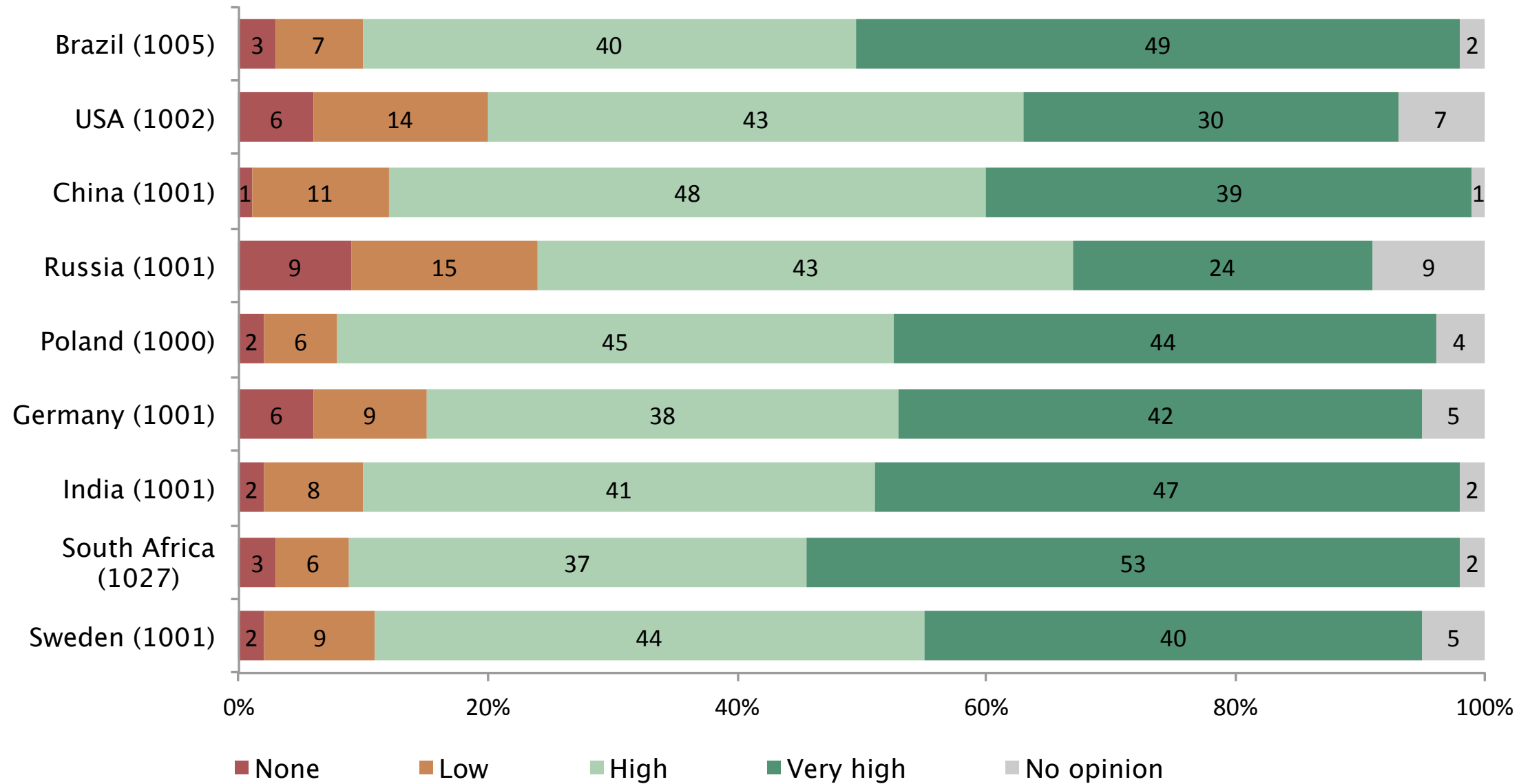


Q19. How do you rate the risk that biological or chemical weapons will be used on a large scale? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

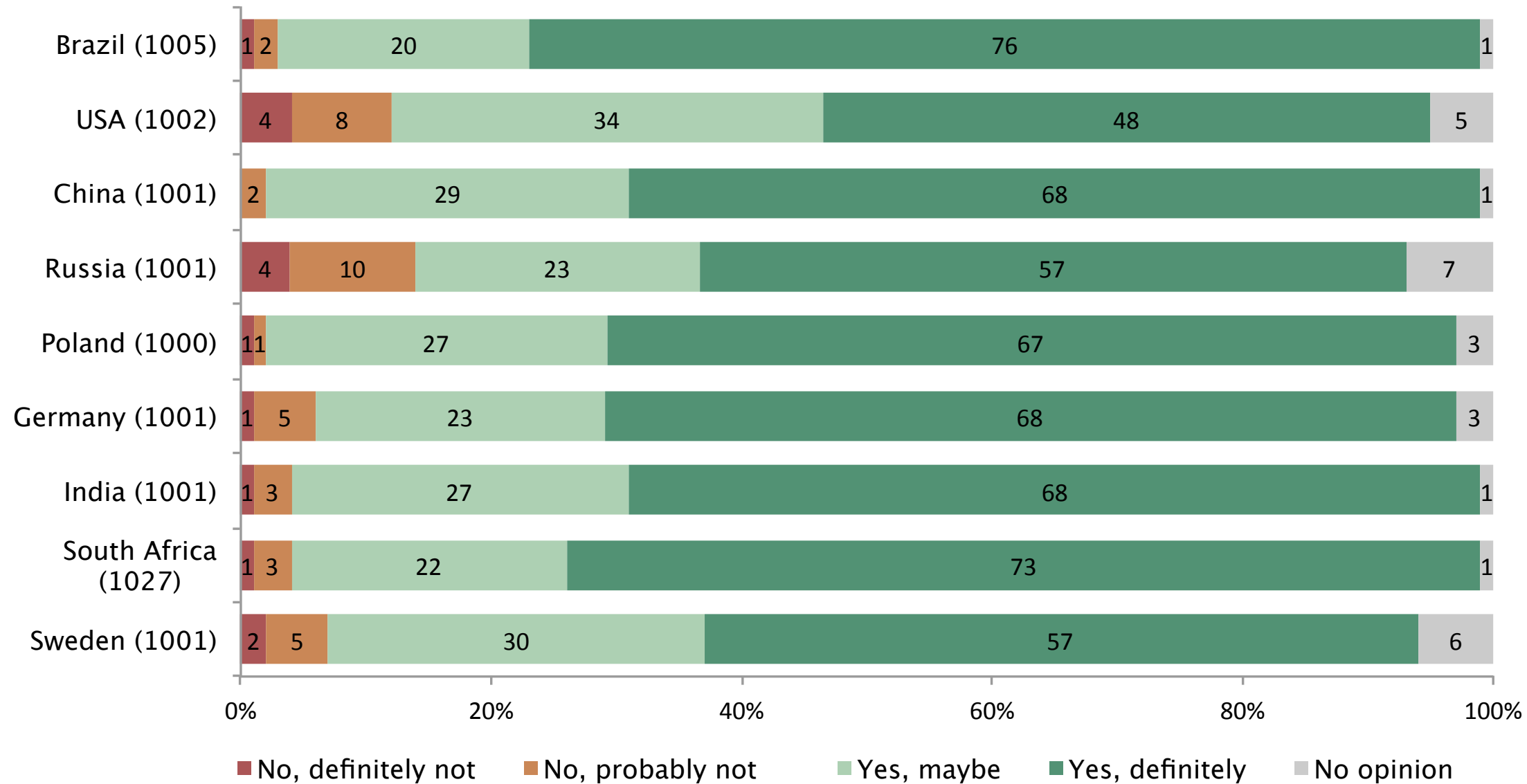


## Q20. What level of sacrifices should people accept in order to prevent future wars?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



Q21. Do you believe that there should be binding international decisions to prevent future wars? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



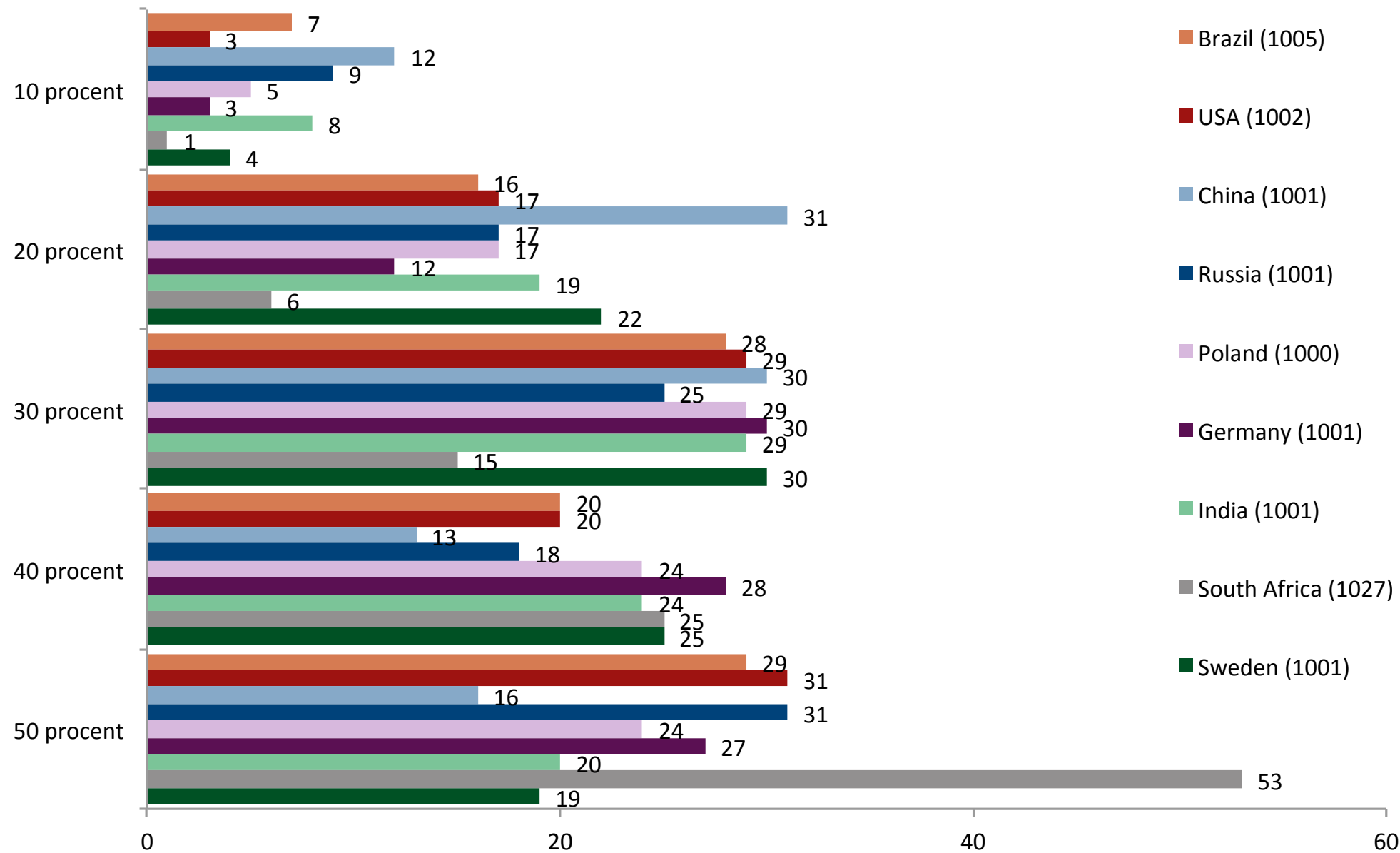
The Pulse of International Sentiment

# Poverty



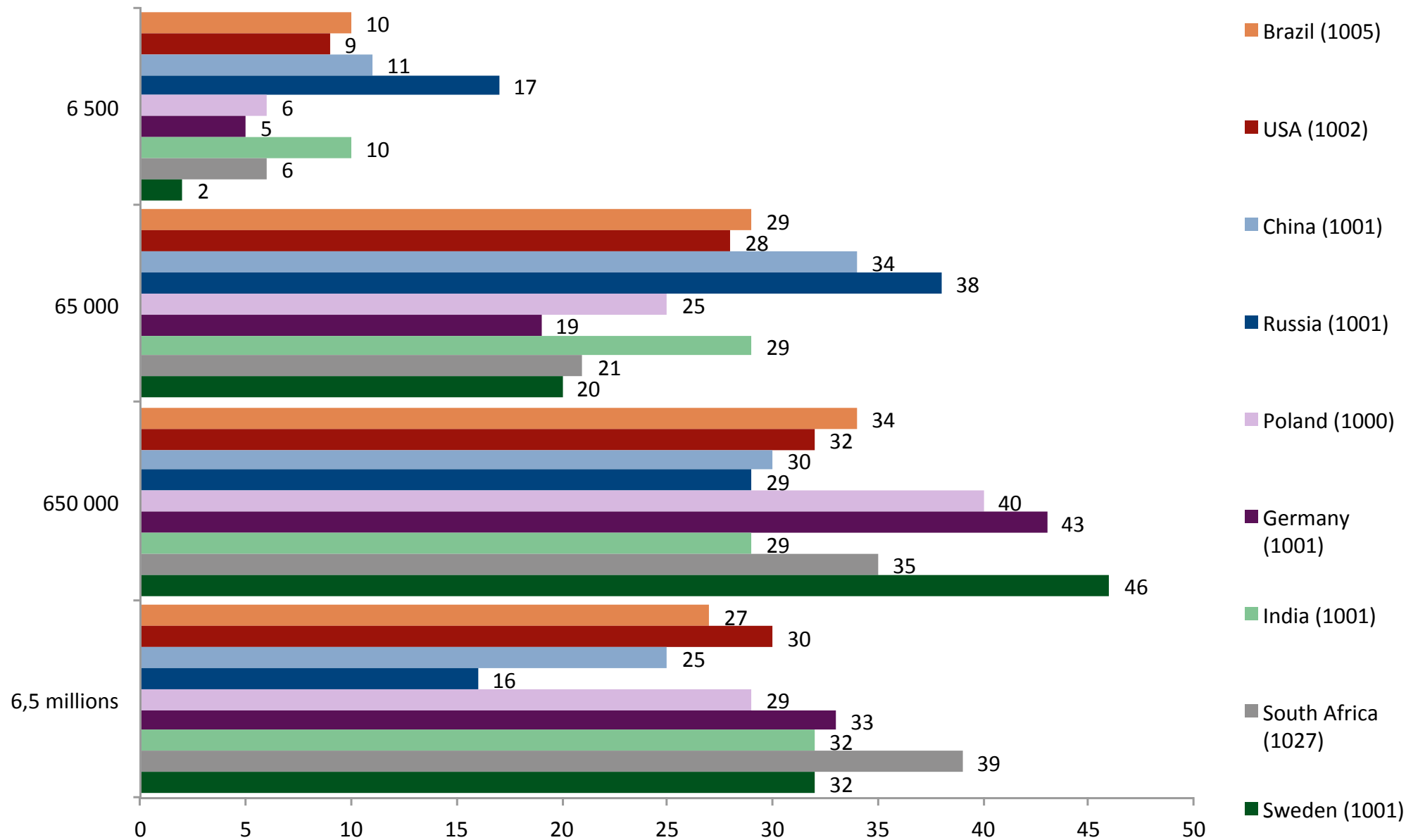
**Global Challenges Foundation**

Q22. What share of the world population lives in poverty, in the sense of living on at most two USD per day? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q23. Worldwide, how many children die each year before the age of five?

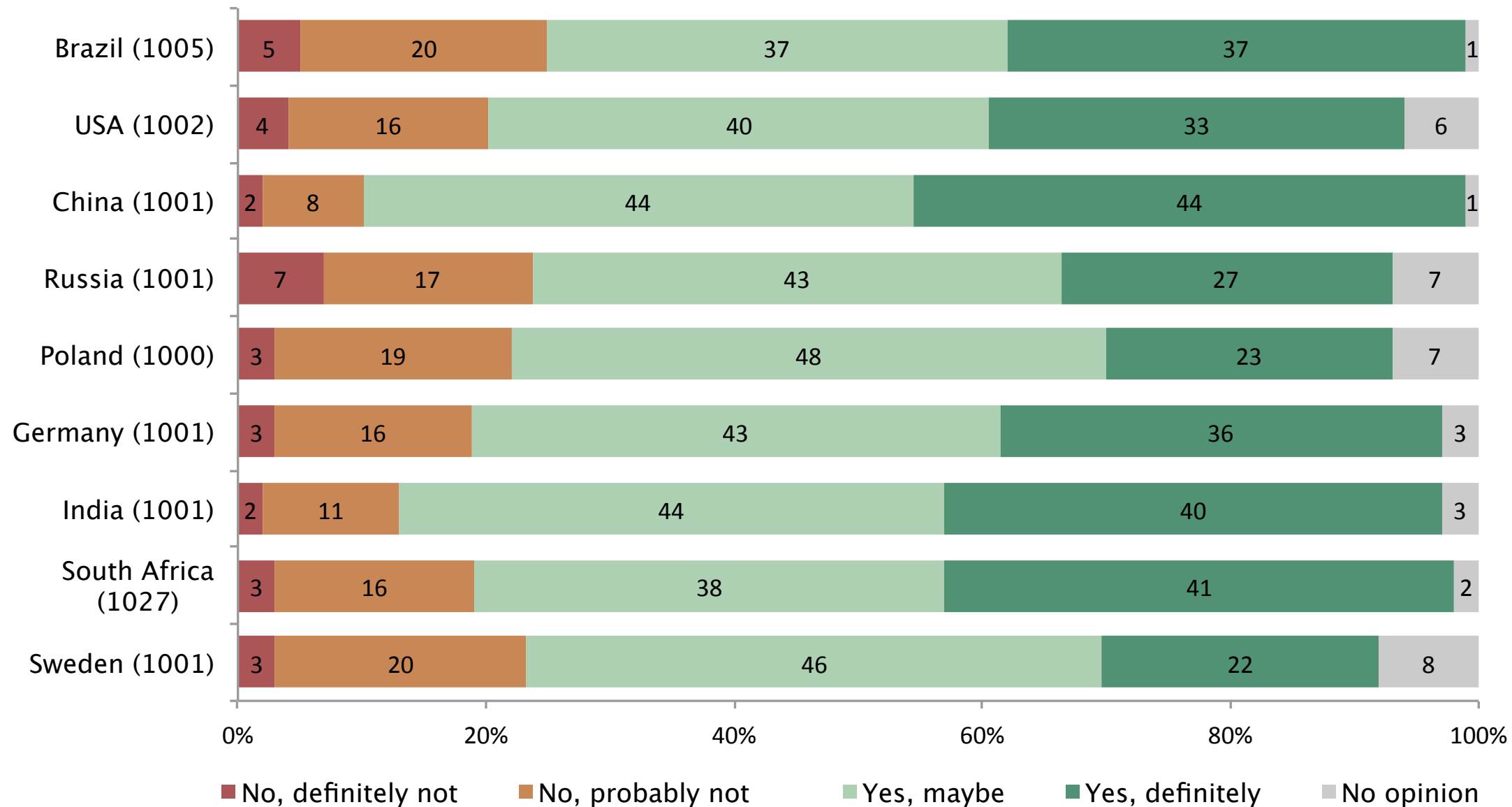
Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



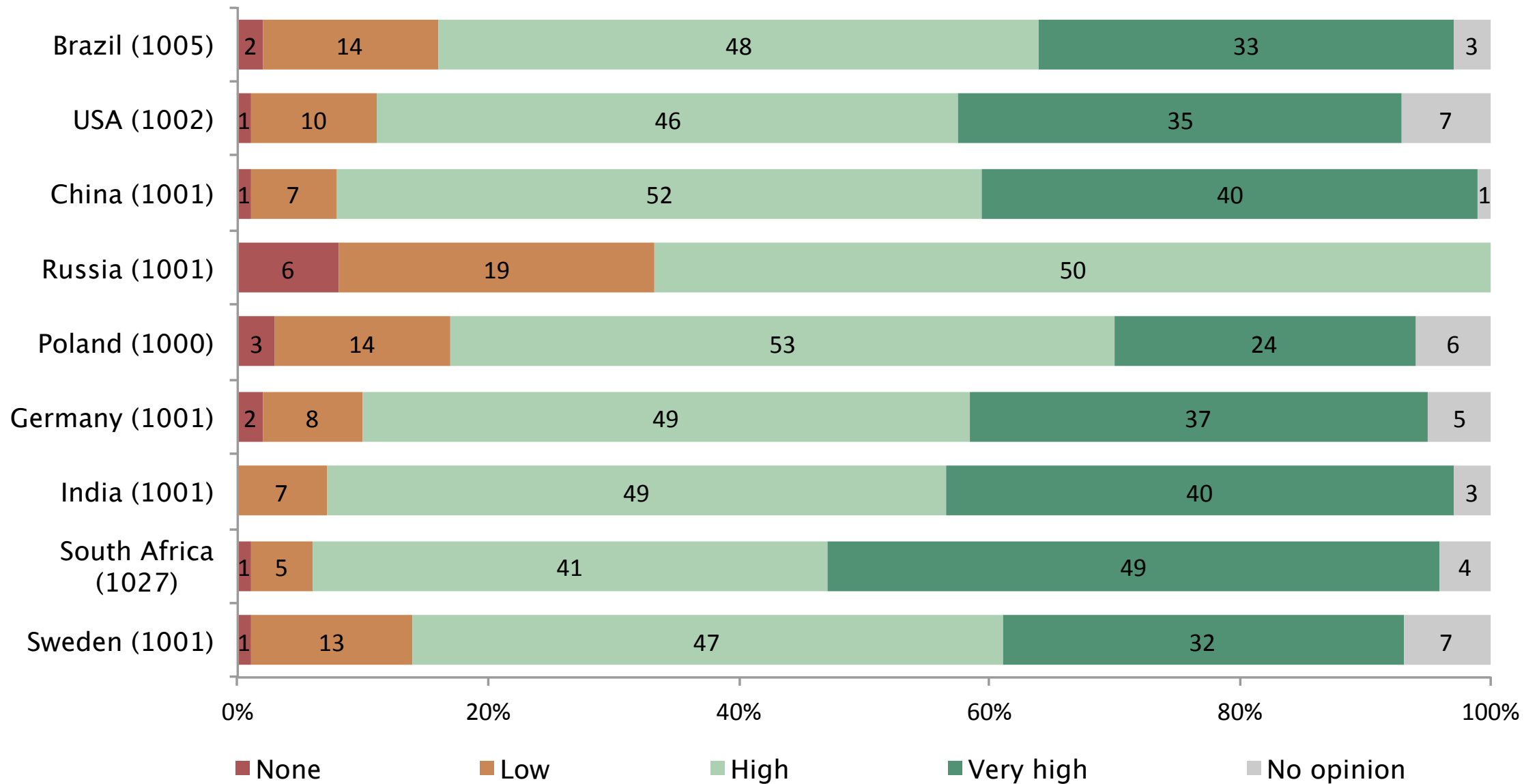


## Q24. Do you think that the poverty throughout the world is also a threat to the richer countries?

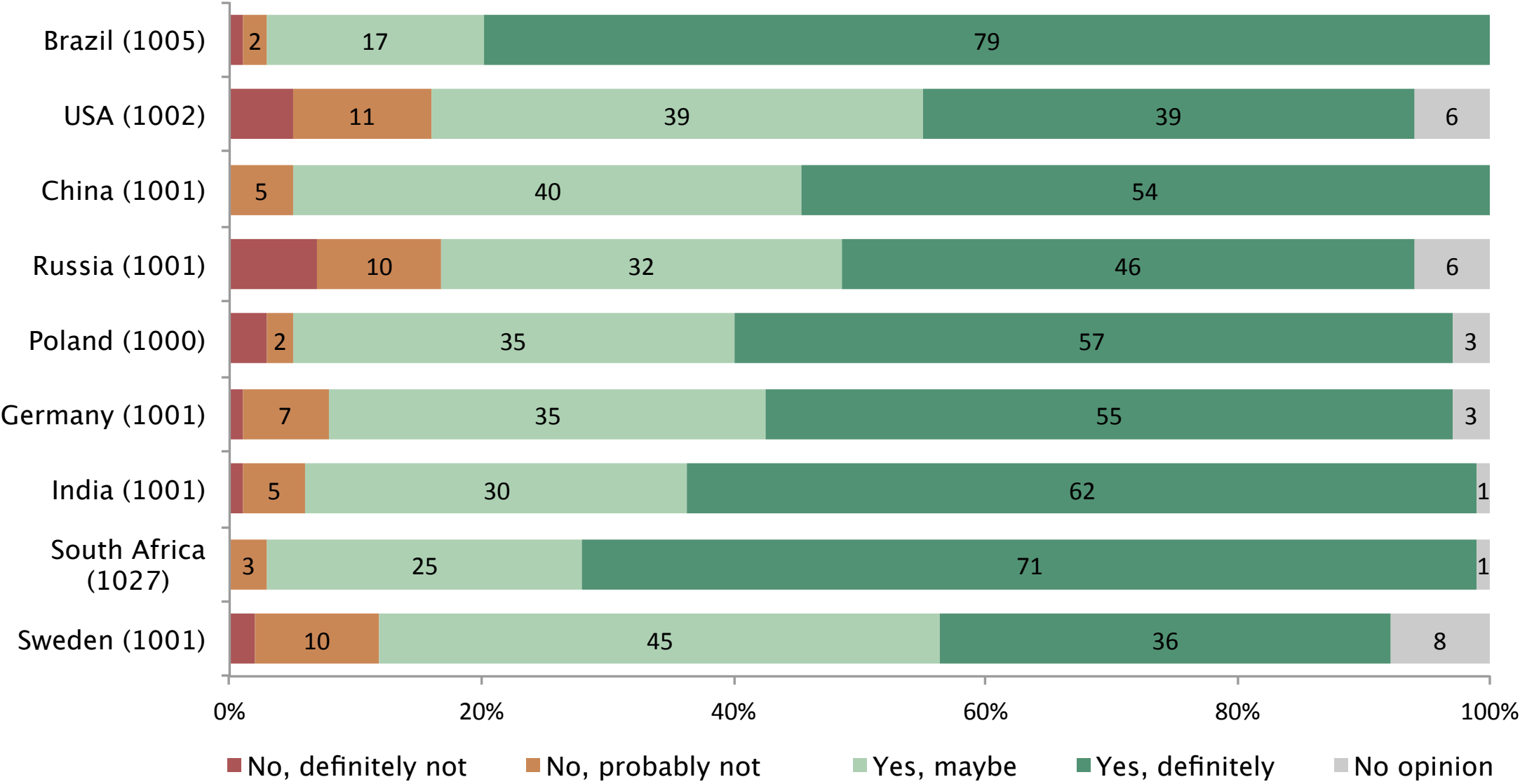
Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



Q25. How large an impediment is current population growth in many poor countries to the struggle against poverty? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



Q26. Do you believe that there should be international binding decisions to combat poverty? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



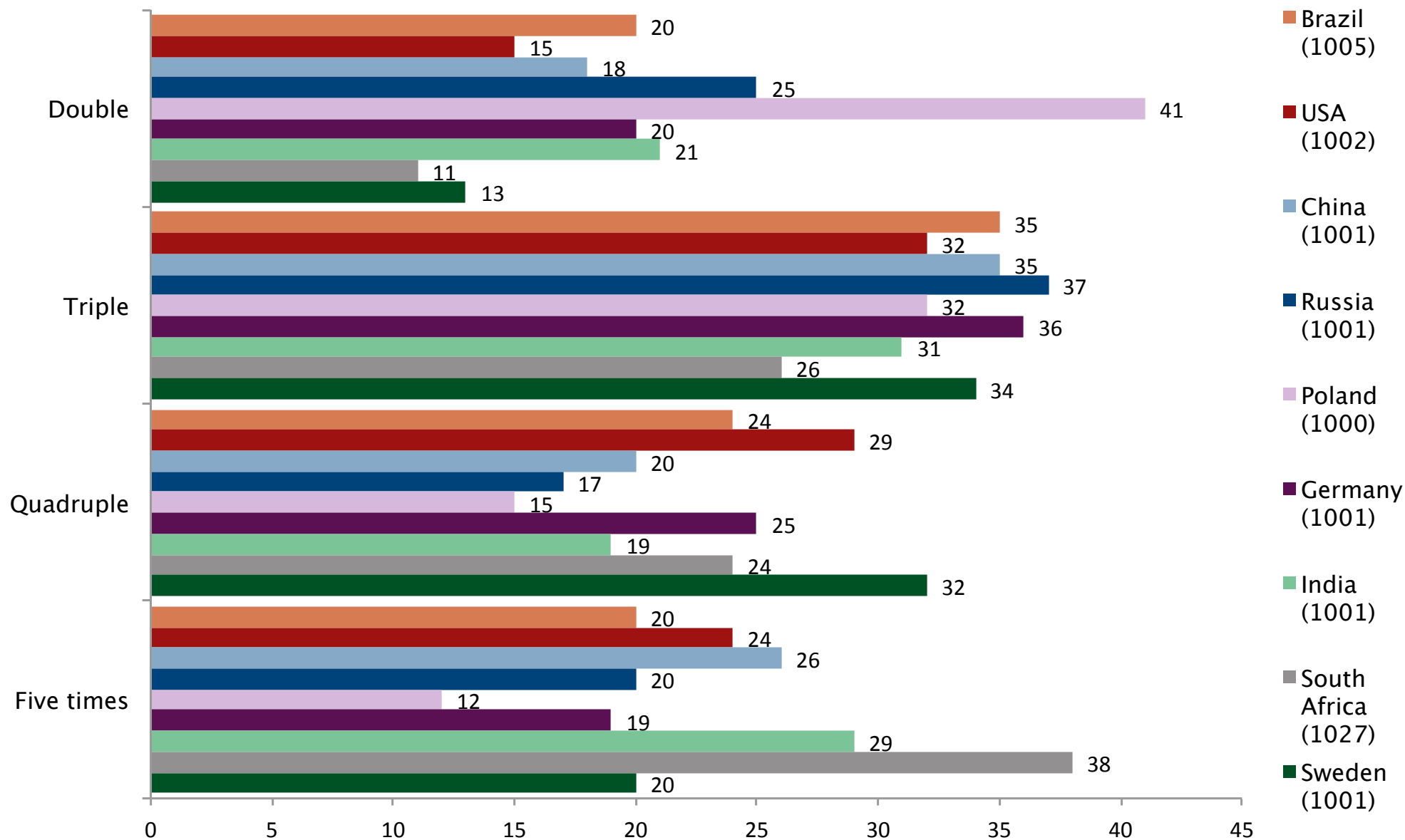
The Pulse of International Sentiment

# Population growth



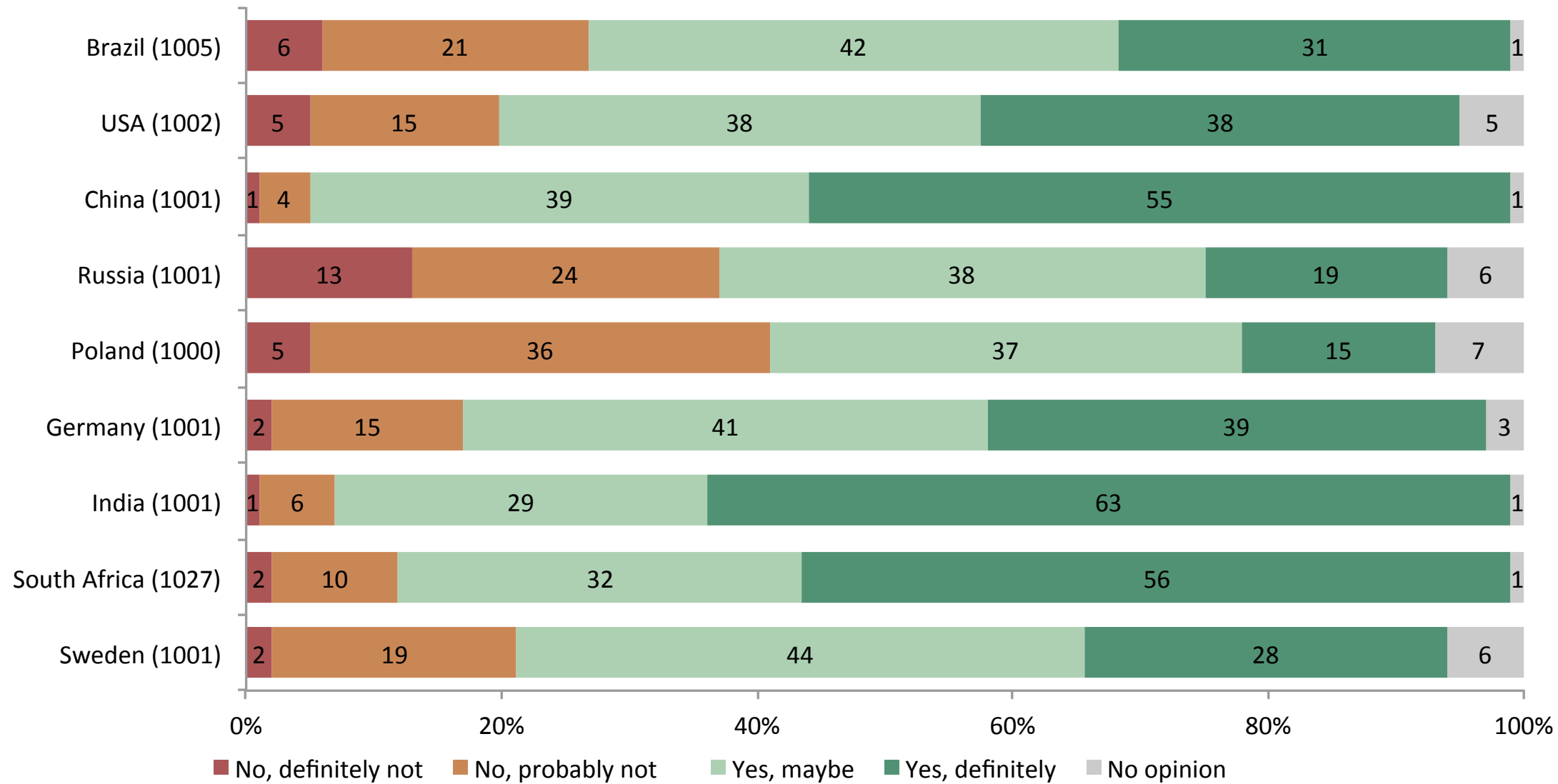
**Global Challenges Foundation**

Q27. Approximately, how much do you think the population worldwide has grown over the last 100 years? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



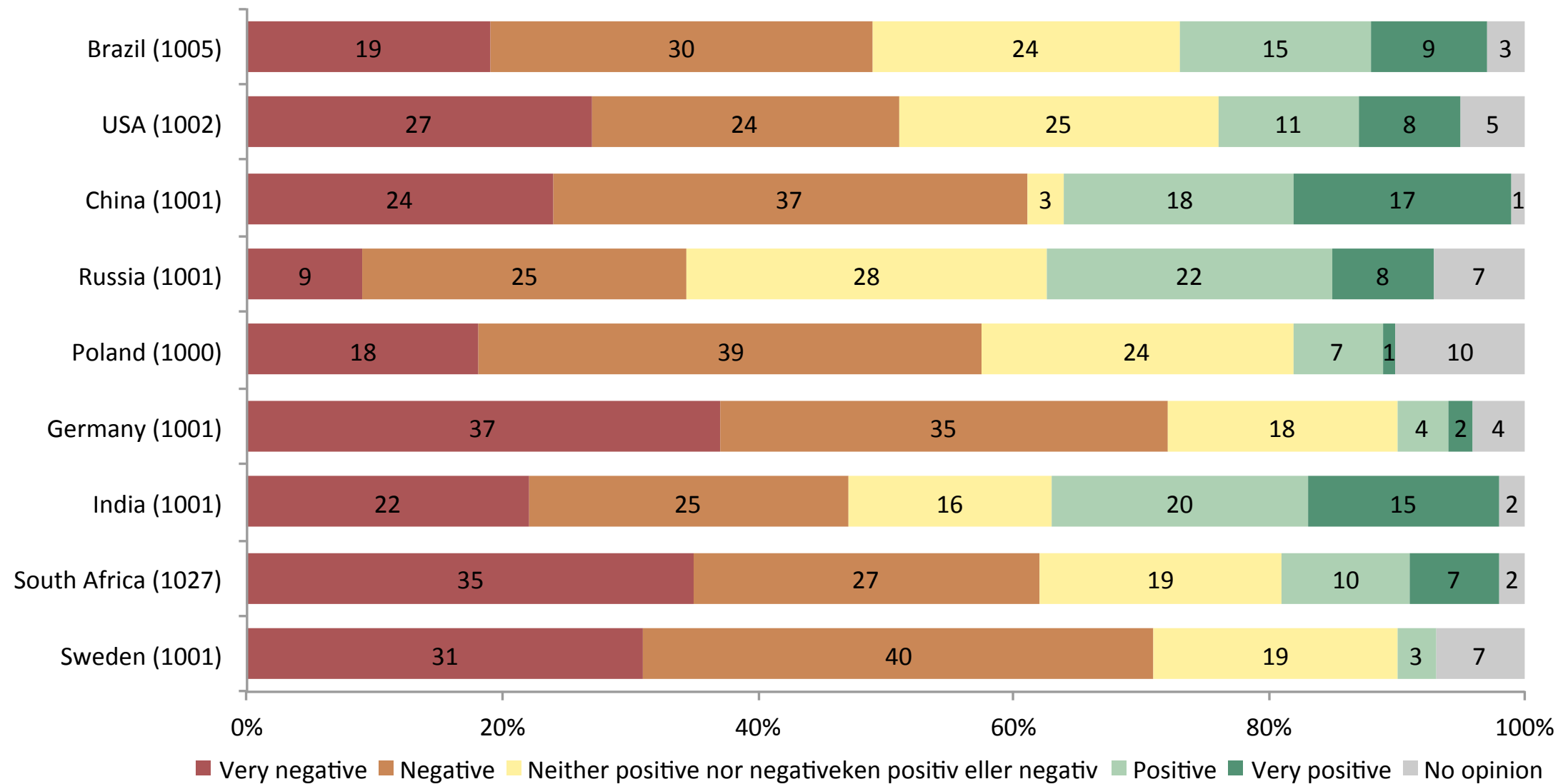
## Q28. Do you think that population growth is a future threat to mankind?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



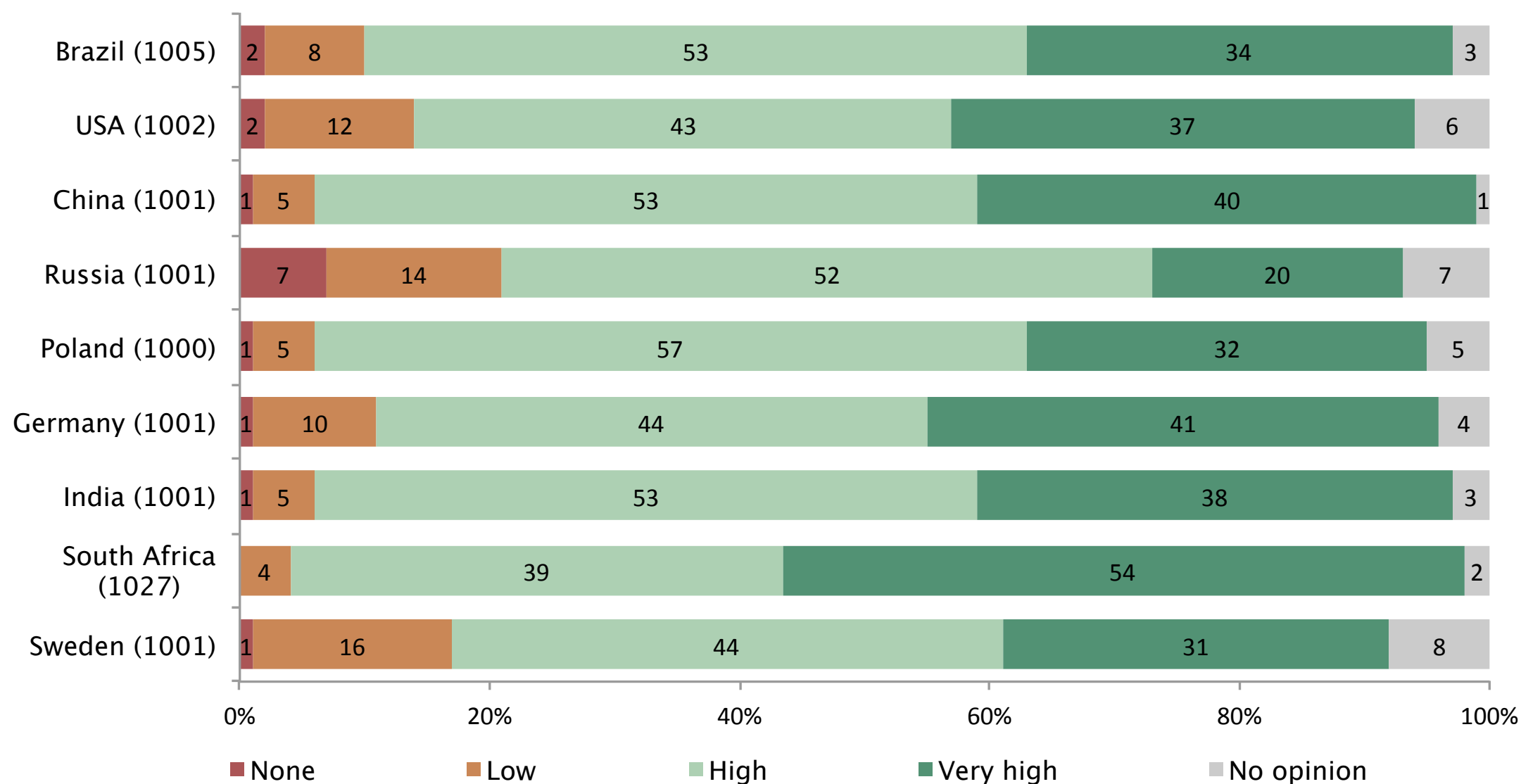
Q29. According to the most recent predictions from the UN, the worldwide population will be close to 11 billion in 2100, an increase by almost 50 percent compared to today's 6.8 billion. Do you believe that the consequences of this population growth for mankind are...?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q30. How high is the risk for illegal mass immigration to the industrial countries due to rapid population growth in poor countries?

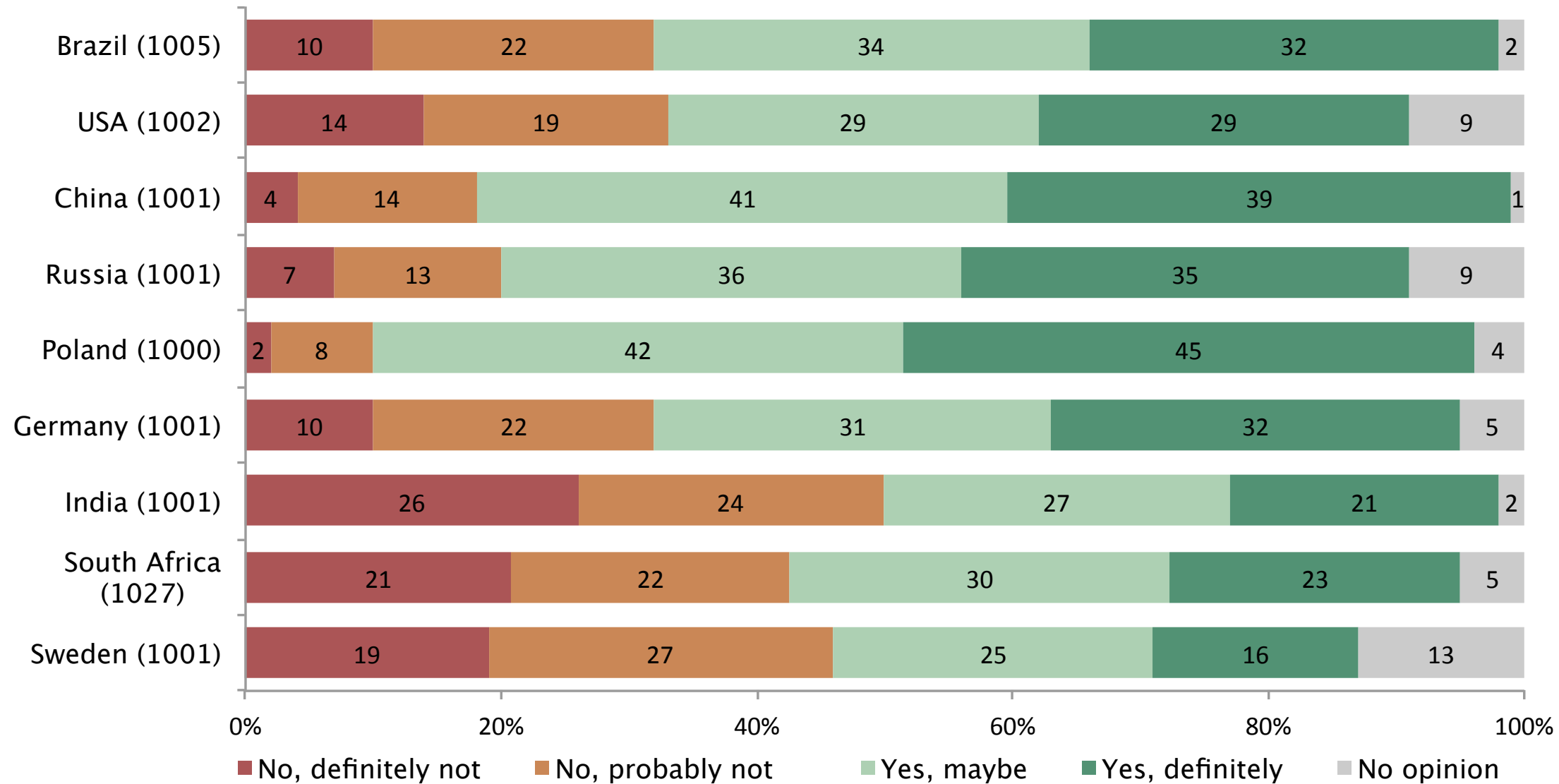
Base presented in parentheses next to each country.





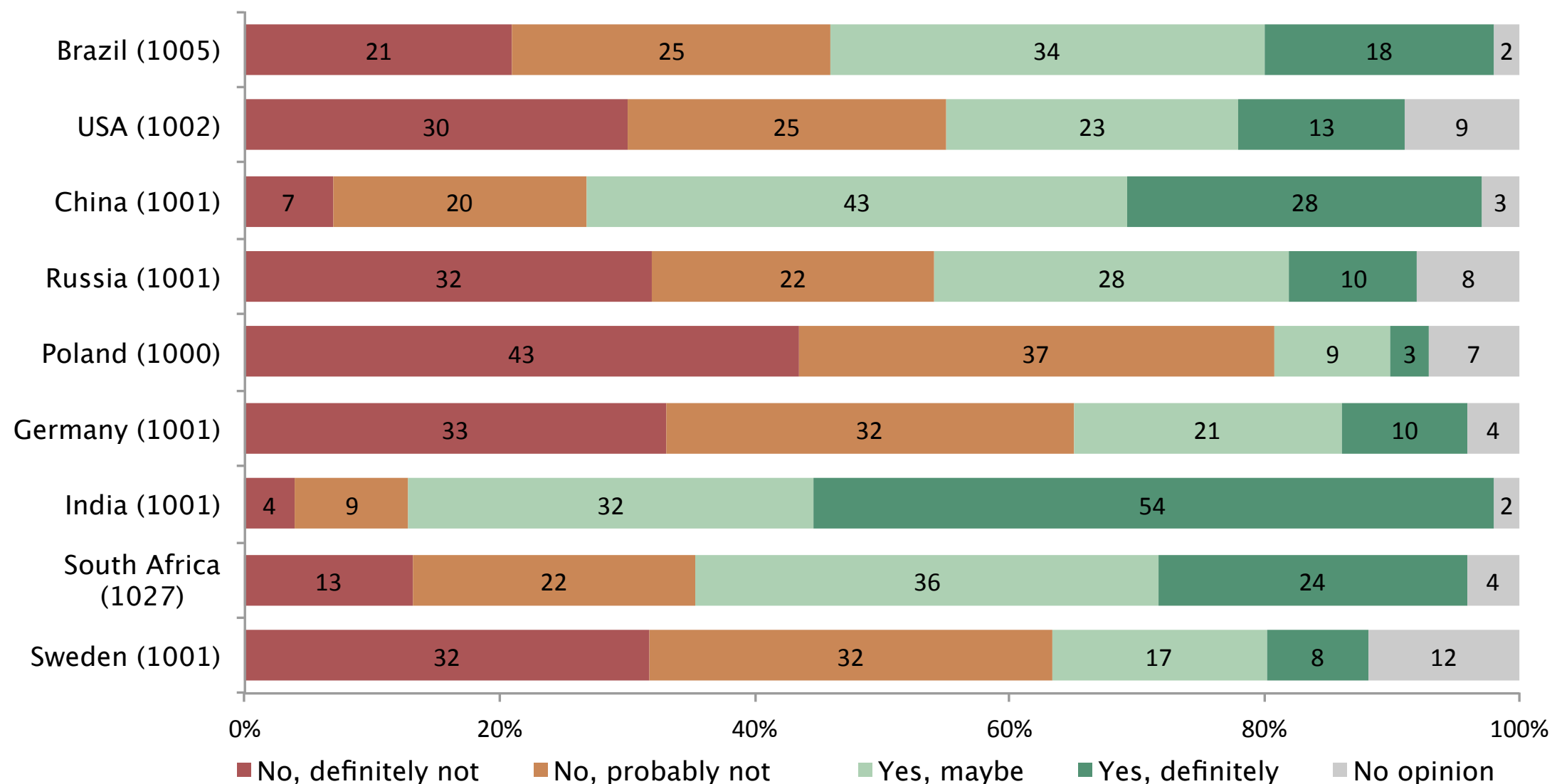
## Q31. Do you believe it is a human right to have as many children as one wishes?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



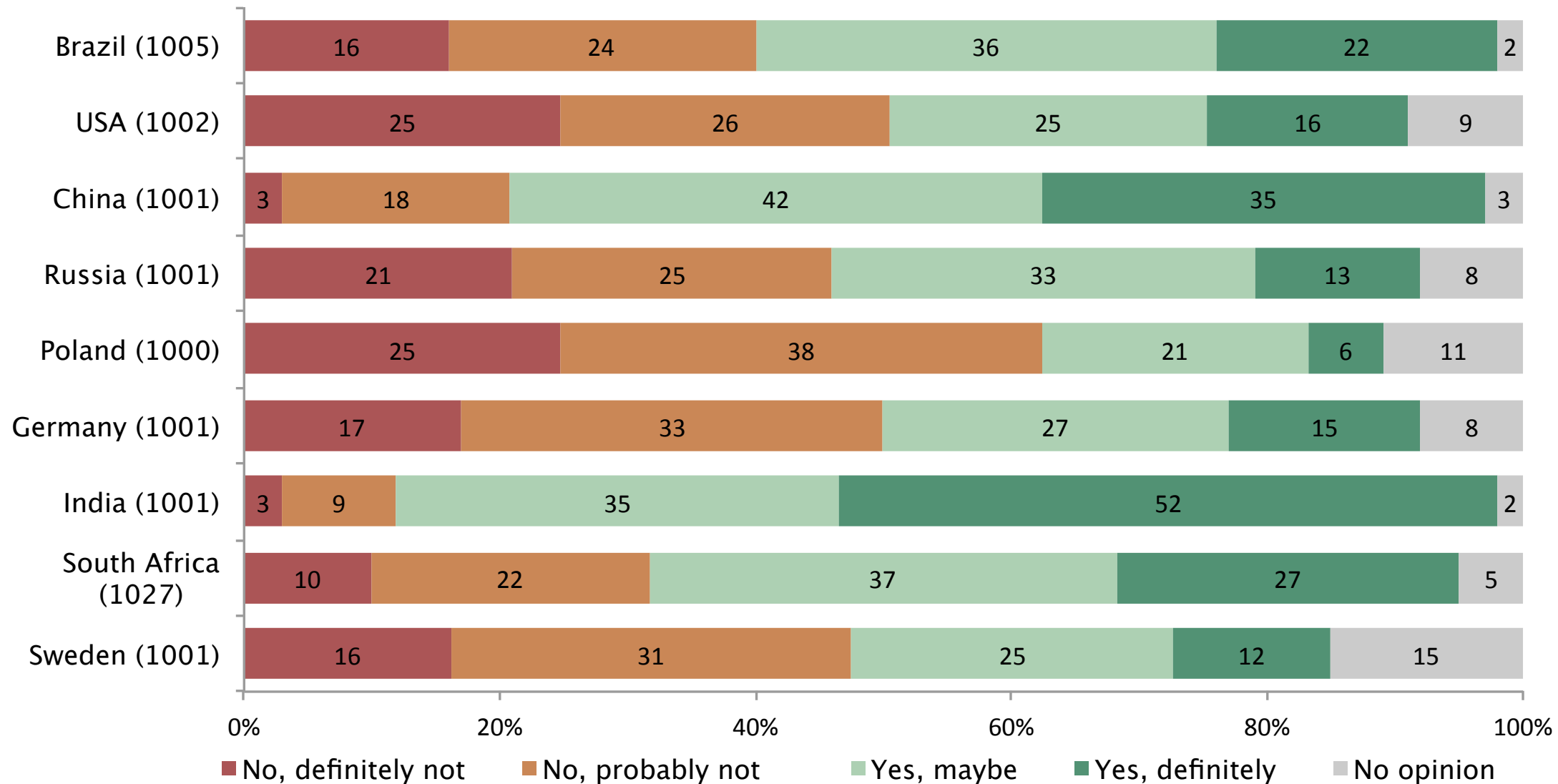
## Q32. On a worldwide basis, do you think that having more than two children per family should be forbidden in order to prevent population growth?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q33. Do you think there should be enforceable international decisions to stop population growth?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



The Pulse of International Sentiment

**The political system  
and a new global legal system**



**Global Challenges Foundation**

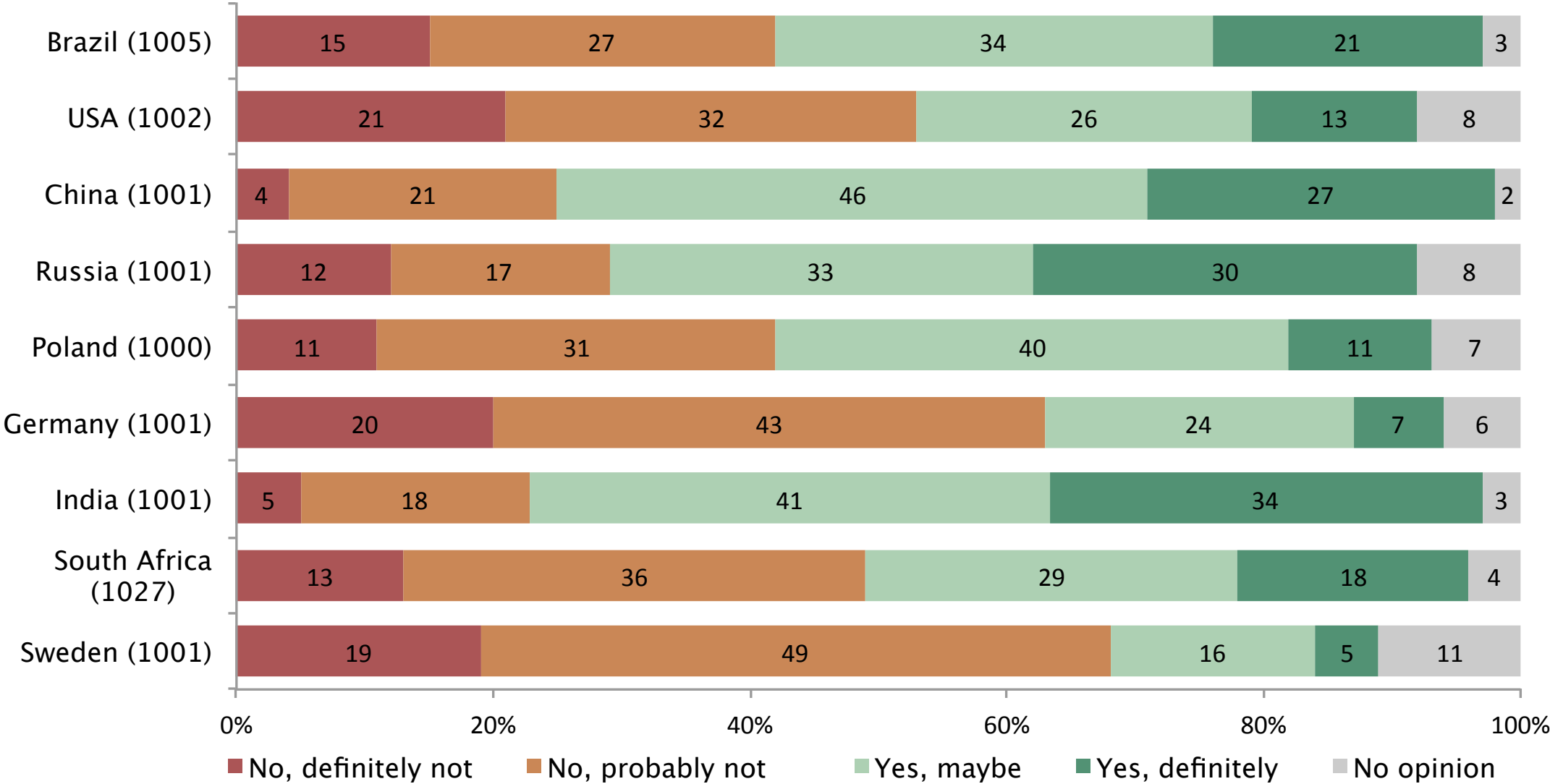
## The Pulse of International Sentiment

### The political system and a new global legal order – Summery

- China (84%) and India (84%) are the two countries where the largest proportion of respondents believes that global poverty is a future threat even against the richer countries. Sweden (68%) is the country where the LEAST proportion believes the same.
- Many believe that binding international decisions should be made in order to come to grips with poverty. United States (16%) followed by Sweden (12%) are the two countries where the largest proportion are not in favor of binding supranational decisions in order to combat poverty in the world.
- Whether population growth is perceived as a future threat to humanity or not differs somewhat between the countries. China (94%) and India (92%) are the two countries where the largest proportion of respondents believed that population growth would probably or definitely pose a future threat. Poland (52%) is, on the contrary, the country where the least proportion believe that population growth is a threat to humanity.
- In all participating countries, except Sweden, at least 8 out of 10 believe that the risk is high or very high for an illegal mass immigration to developed countries as a result of rapid population growth in poorer countries. In Sweden the corresponding figure is 75%, about 1 in 6 of Swedes (17%) believe that the risk is small or nonexistent.
- Poland stands out as the country that primarily stands opposed to binding decisions in order to prevent rapid population growth. This is, among other things, reflected in that a greater proportion of respondents from Poland believe that it should be a human right to have as many children as one wants (87%) and by more Poles not being in favor of that one should ban more than 2 children in each family in the world (80%). More participants in Poland remain skeptical to that it would be good with binding international decisions in order to stop population growth (63%).

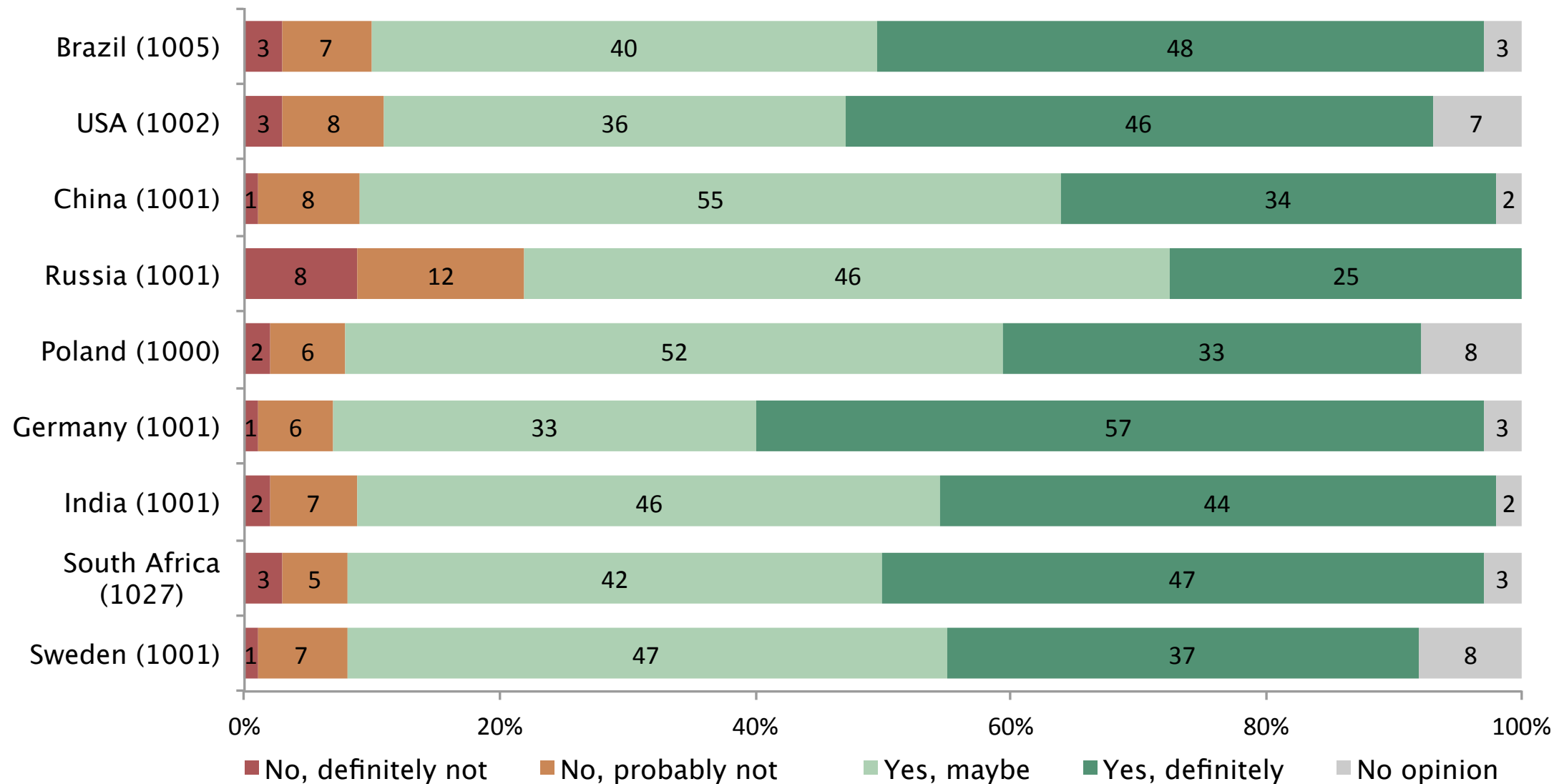


Q34. Do you think that the current political system, with nearly 200 sovereign states, is capable of taking the decisions required to solve global problems regarding climate change, environmental pollution, poverty and wars? *Base presented in parentheses next to each country.*

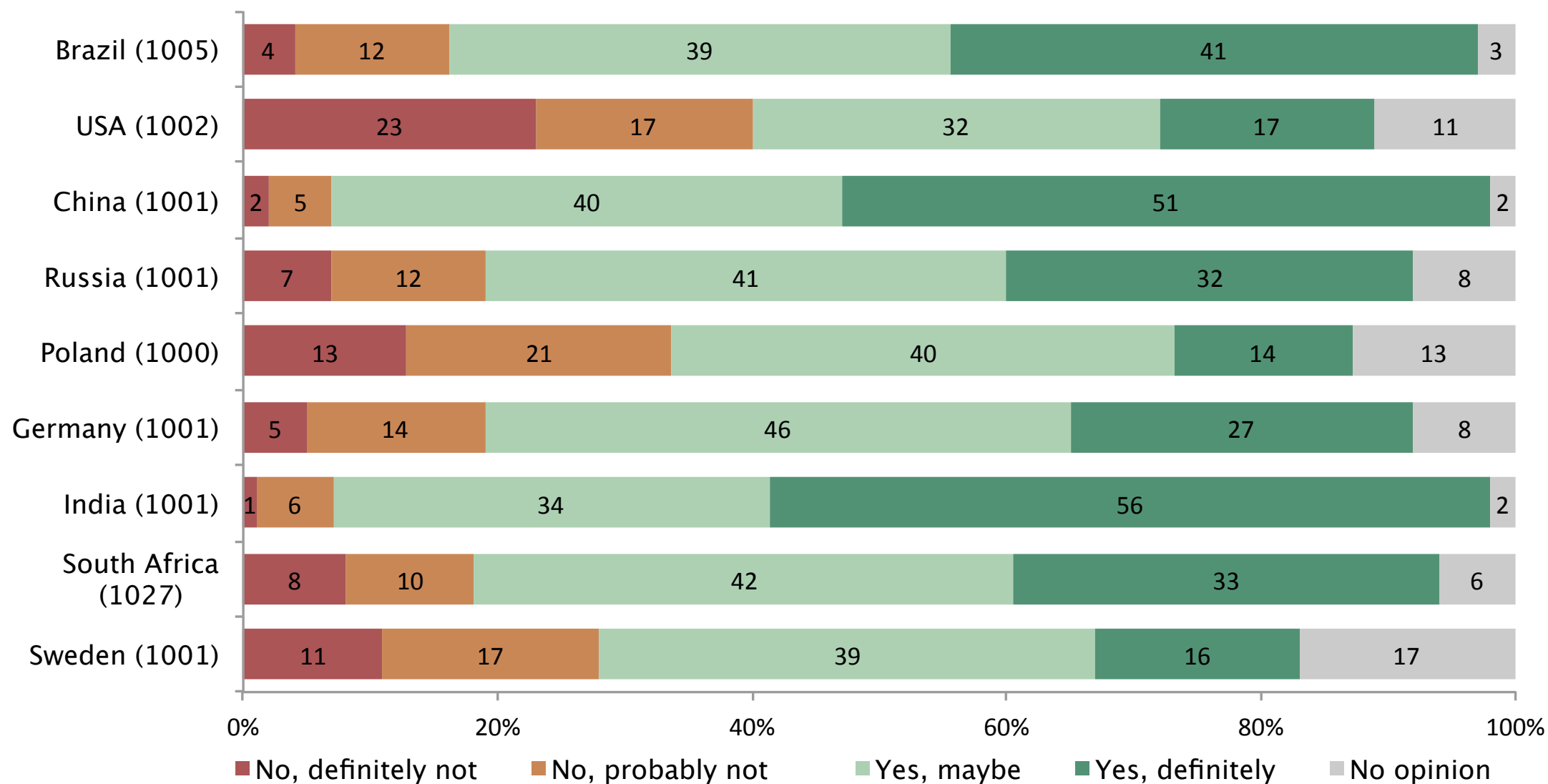


## Q35. Do you think politicians throughout the world ignore or minimize serious problems because they are afraid to suggest unpopular solutions to these issues?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

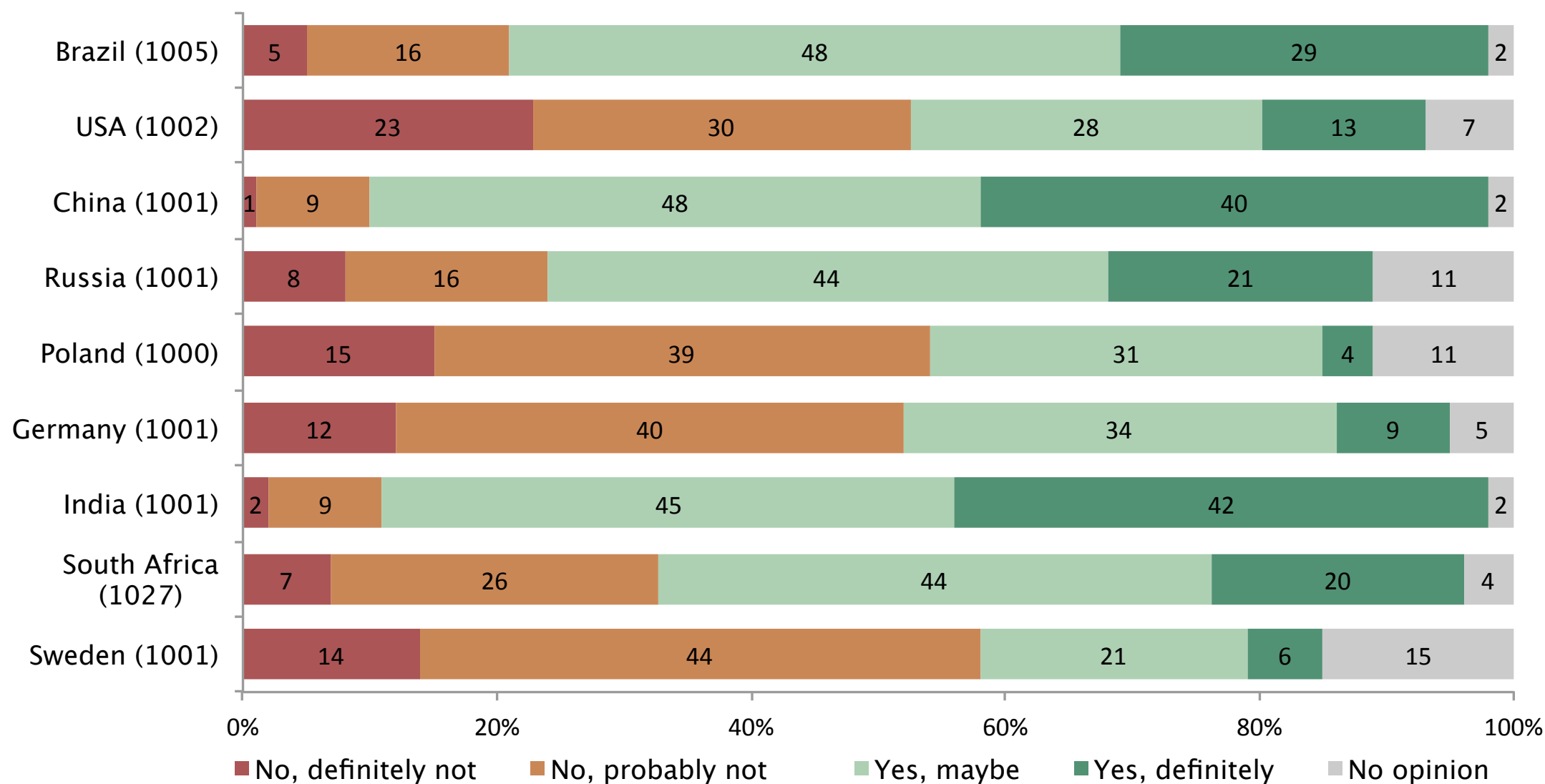


Q36. Do you think a new supranational entity should be established to take enforceable global decisions in order to solve global problems such as climate change, environmental pollution, war and poverty? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



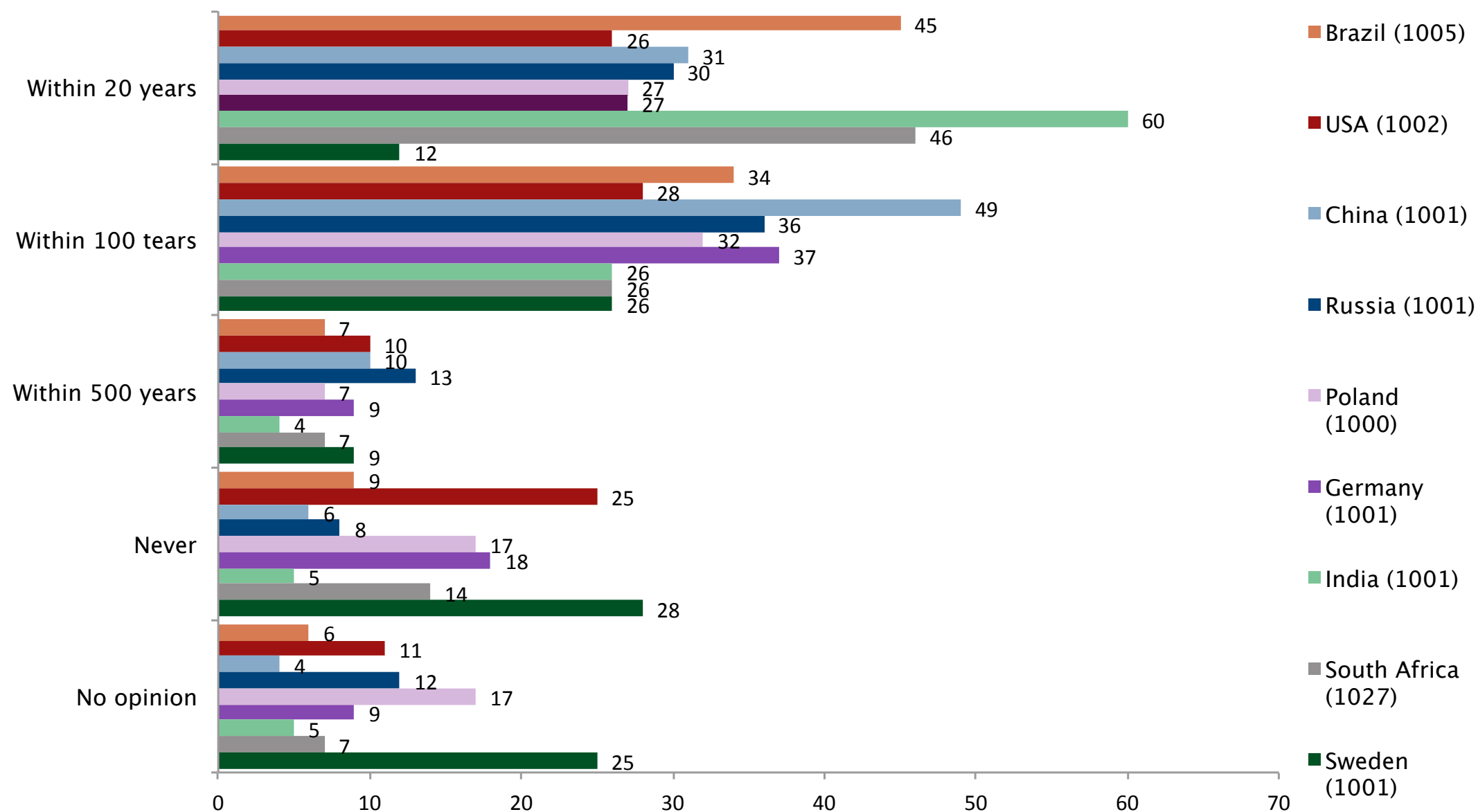


Q37. Do you think a new supranational entity should be established to take enforceable global decisions in order to solve global problems such as climate change, environmental pollution, war and poverty? Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



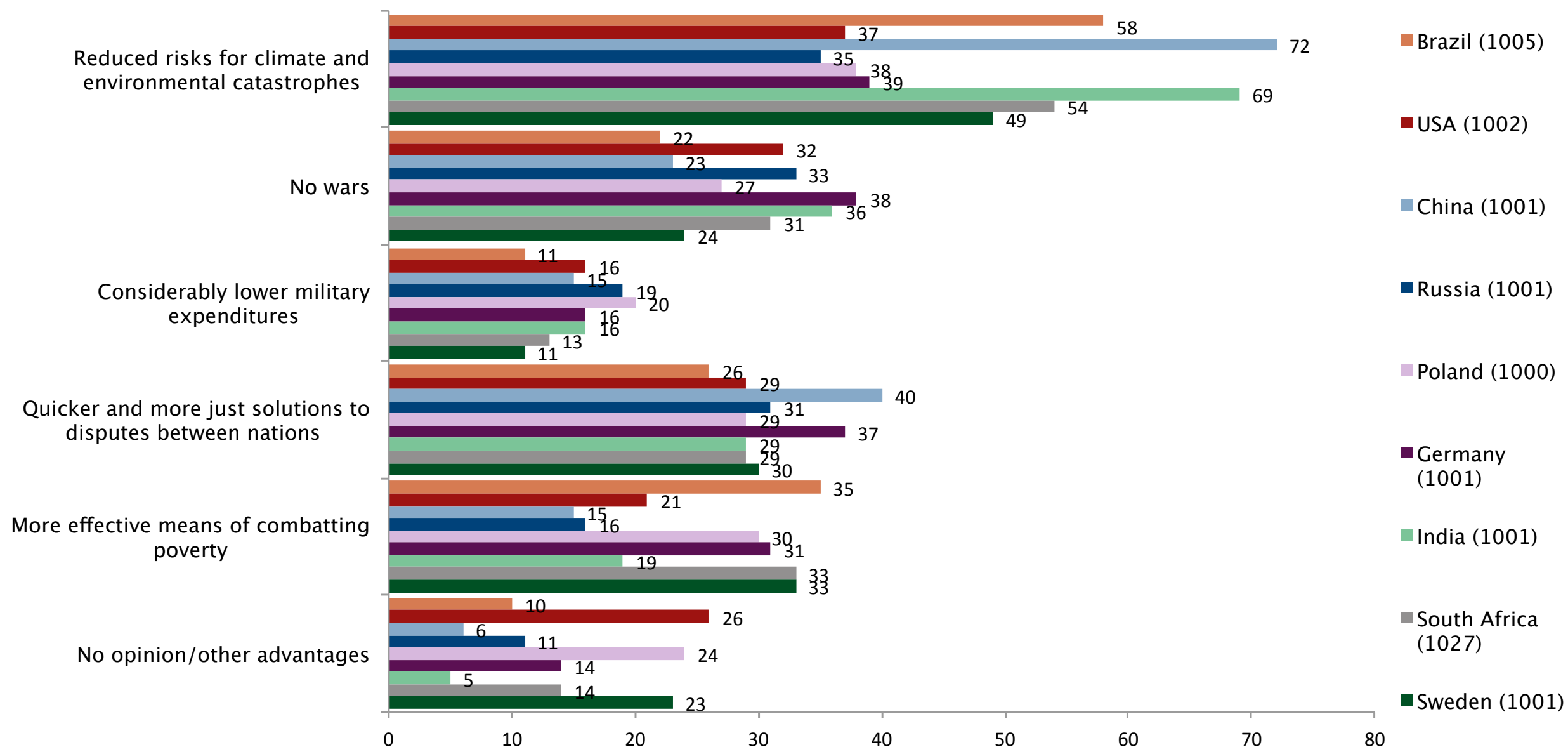
## Q38. When do you think such a global legal system could become a reality?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q39. What are the TWO most far-reaching advantages of such a global legal system?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.



## Q40. What are the TWO most crucial disadvantages of such a global legal system?

Base presented in parentheses next to each country.

