

## Survey Brief

The survey indicates that there is no significant gap between individuals who perceived China to be a good neighbor and those who disagreed with this perception. However, there appears to be concerns about China's economic influence and its status as Myanmar's largest economic partner. Additionally, there was significant agreement on the growing dependency on China regarding trade, investments, peace process, politics and diplomacy as well as technology and security sectors following the 2021 coup. Regarding China's approach to Myanmar, most respondents shared the view that China's approach is pragmatic, focusing on fostering good relations with whoever is in power in Myanmar. The majority of respondents also perceived that China intervenes in Myanmar's domestic affairs.

An intriguing finding within Myanmar's policy community was that many respondents were unaware of China's major regional cooperative projects. It is also

noteworthy that a significant portion of respondents expressed disagreement with the ongoing implementations of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) projects. Furthermore, respondents perceived that China-Myanmar economic relations would undergo development after three years, starting in 2026.

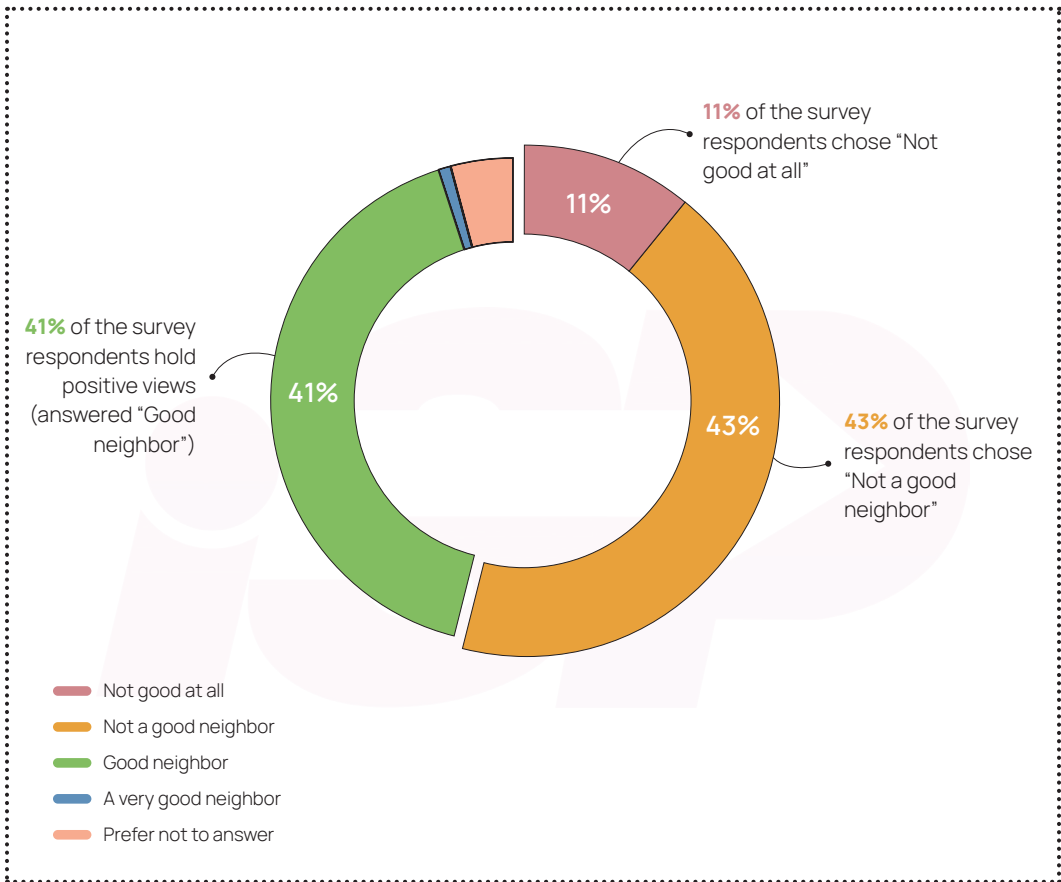
The majority of respondents continue to hold strong views that China's governance, economic development, and concept of democracy with China's characteristics are not ideal for Myanmar, despite China's efforts to build relations in various sectors of Myanmar through soft power. Specifically, most leaders of ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) do not consider China's governance an ideal model. However, there is still a perception among respondents that China holds influence over EAOs in Northern Shan State. Many respondents also indicated that their perceptions remain unchanged despite the ongoing Operation 1027. ■



## Key Findings

Key Finding-1

### Divided sentiments on China as a good neighbor

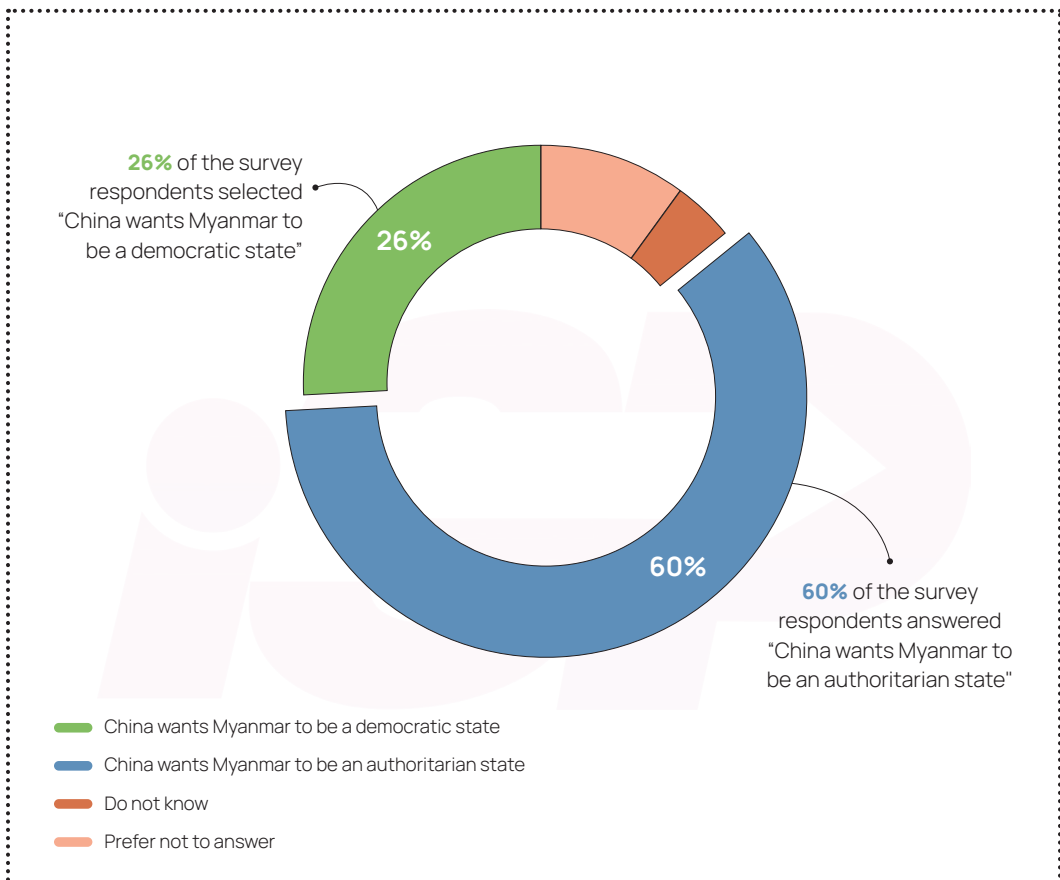


54%

The majority (**54 percent**) of the survey respondents disagreed with the view of China as a good neighbor, while a significant proportion (**42 percent**) viewed China as a good neighbor. In the previous survey, **55 percent** of respondents disagreed with the view of China as a good neighbor, while **40 percent** had a positive view.

## Key Finding-2

## China is perceived as wanting Myanmar to be an authoritarian state

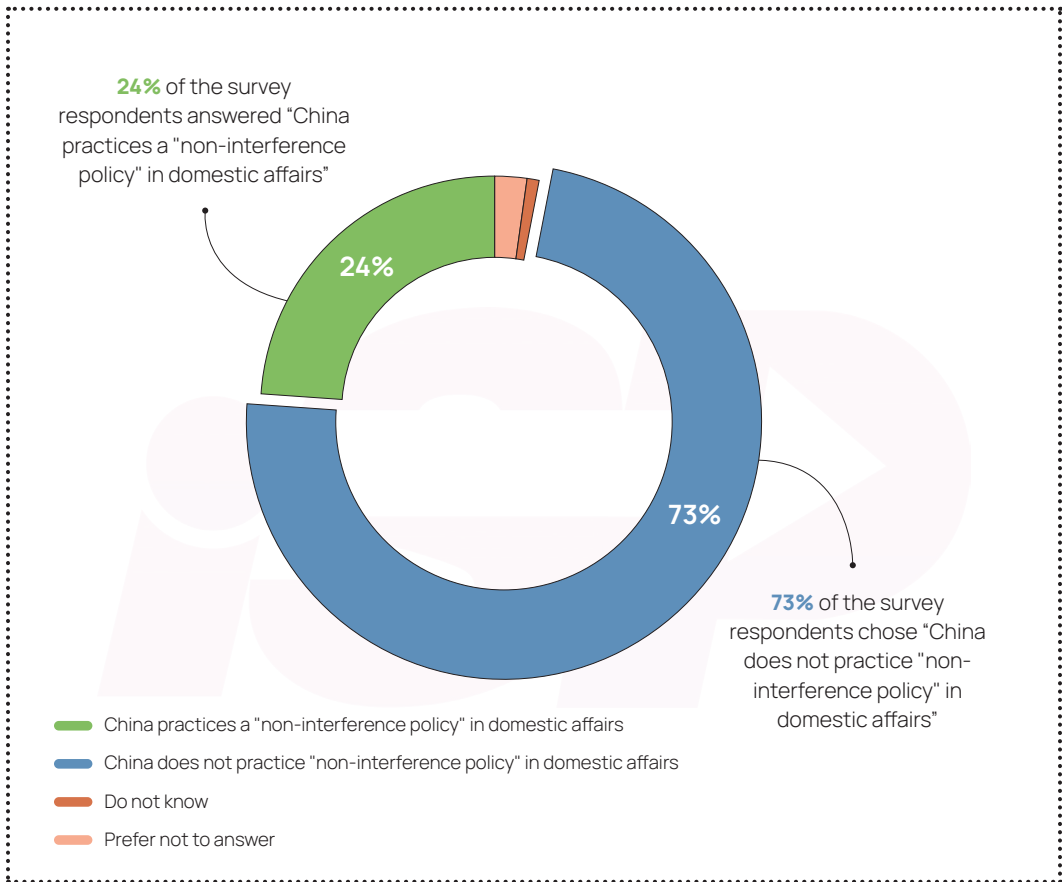


60%

The majority of survey respondents (**60 percent**) believe that China desires Myanmar to be an authoritarian state, while another proportion (**26 percent**) perceive that China prefers Myanmar to be a democratic state. This marks a **five percent** increase from the previous survey, wherein **55 percent** of respondents held the view that China desires for Myanmar to be an authoritarian state.

Key Finding-3

China is perceived as interfering in Myanmar's domestic affairs

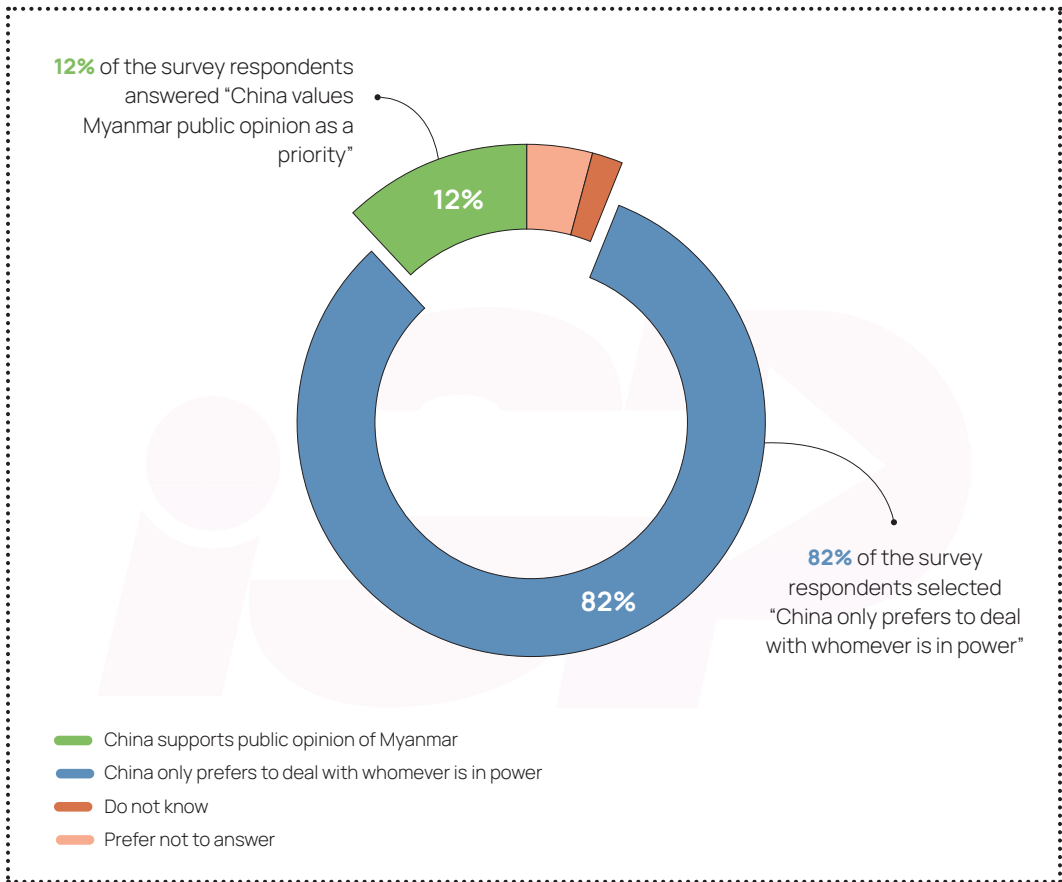


73%

The majority of survey respondents (**73 percent**) do not believe that China adheres to a "non-interference policy" in domestic affairs of Myanmar, while **24 percent** perceive that China does adhere to such a policy. This marks a **six percent** increase from the previous survey, where **67 percent** of respondents believed that China interferes in domestic affairs.

Key Finding-4

Majority believe China prefers to deal with whomever is in power

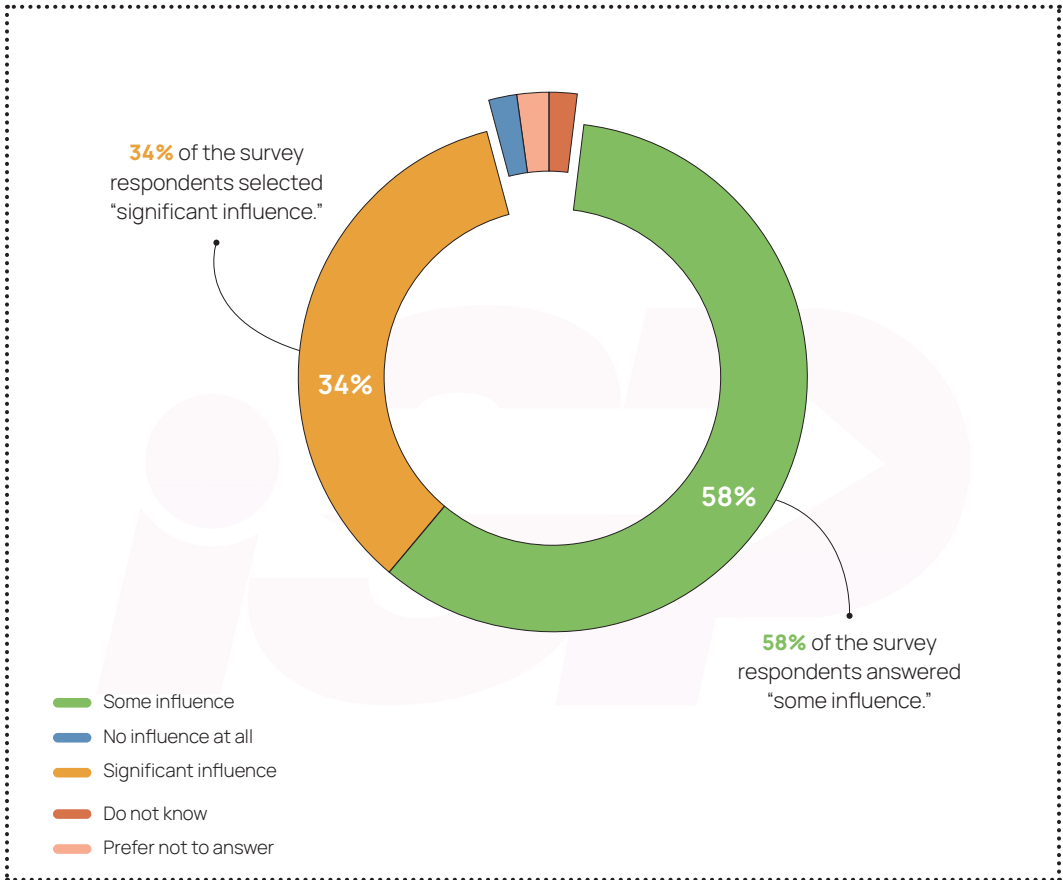


82%

The majority of respondents (**82 percent**) believe that China only prefers to deal with whomever is in power. This marks a **three percent** increase from the previous survey, where **79 percent** of respondents held the same view.

Key Finding-5

China is perceived as having an influence among northern Shan State EAOs

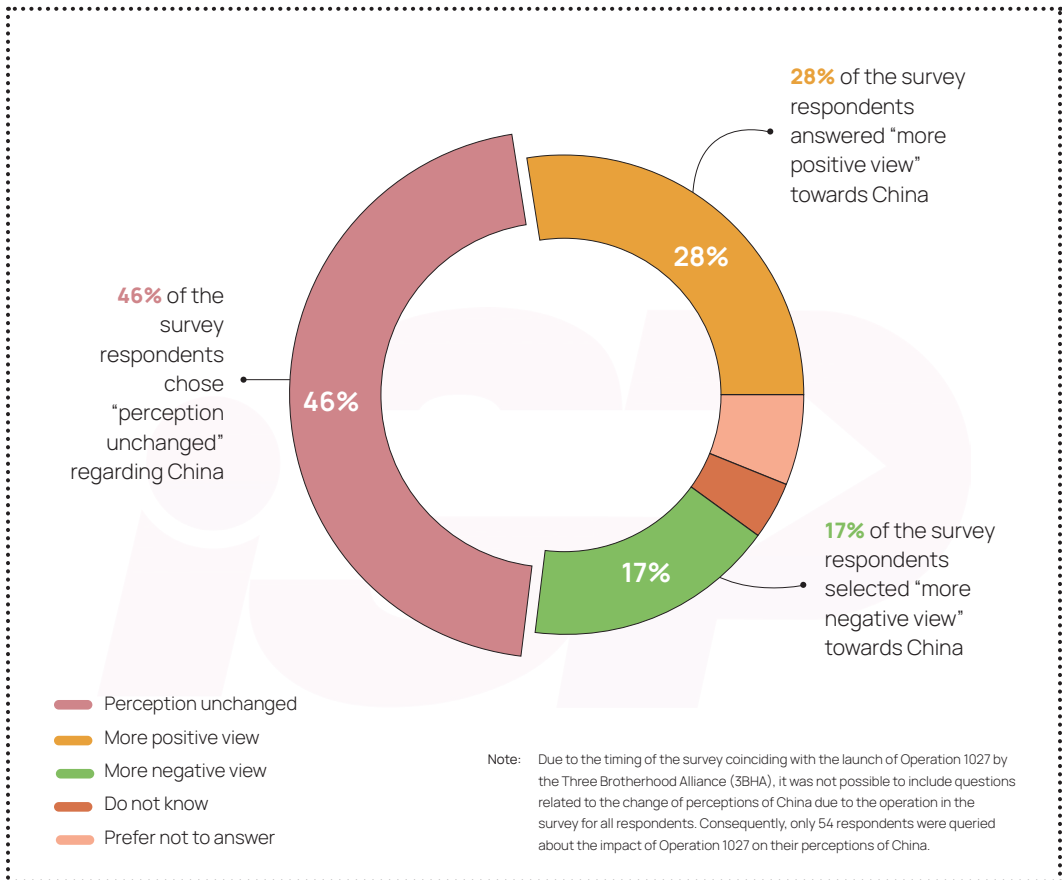


92%

Regarding the influence China holds among Northern Shan State EAOs, **92 percent** of the respondents viewed that there is an influence to some extent while only **two percent** answered that there is no influence at all. This suggests that there have been no significant changes in respondents' perceptions regarding China's influence. In the previous survey, **60 percent** of respondents believed that China had some influence, while **35 percent** believed that China had a significant influence.

Key Finding-6

Operation 1027 did not change view on China



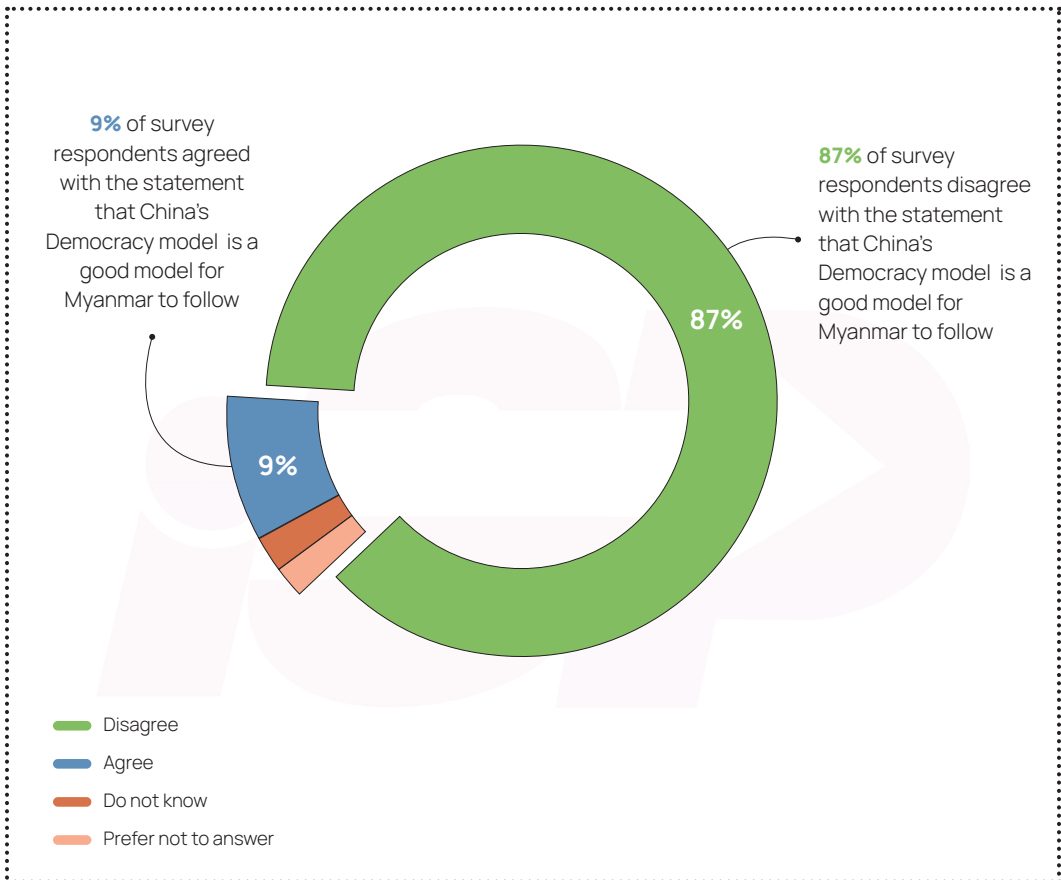
46%

Despite the launch of Operation 1027 by the three Brotherhood Alliance (3BHA) in northern Shan State, **46 percent** of the respondents stated that their perspective on China remained unchanged. **28 percent** indicated that their view had become more positive, while **17 percent** reported that their view had become more negative. **Six percent** of respondents refuse to answer this question.



Key Finding-7

## Democracy with Chinese characteristics unfit for Myanmar

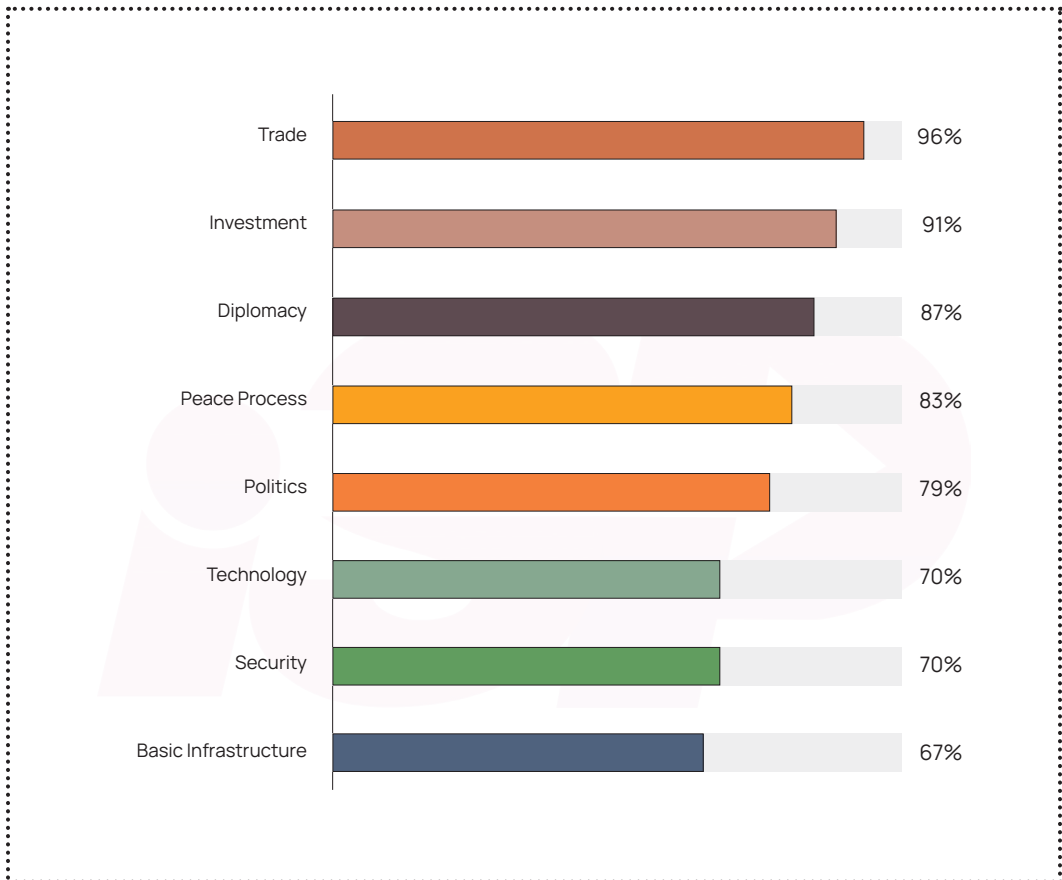


87%

When asked about whether democracy with Chinese characteristics is an ideal model, **87 percent** of respondents disagreed, while **nine percent** agreed. There were no significant changes compared to the previous survey, with only a **one percent** increase in respondents agreeing that democracy with Chinese characteristics is an ideal model.

Key Finding-8

Myanmar is perceived as dependent on China in all sectors

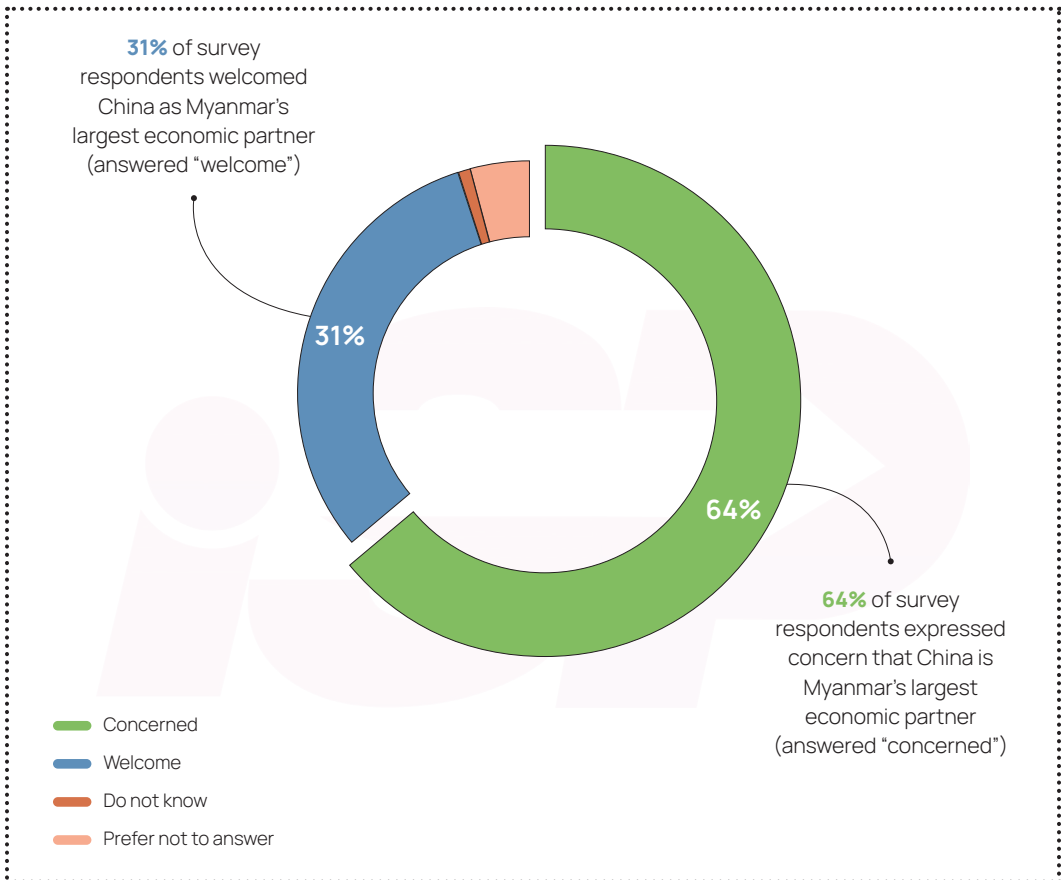


96%

Among the respondents, **96 percent** indicated that Myanmar is dependent on China in terms of trade. Additionally, **91 percent** responded that the dependency extends to investment, while **87 percent** viewed it as concerning diplomacy. In comparison to the last year survey, there have been some changes: trade remains the primary area of dependency, similar to the previous year, while diplomacy became the second-most cited area of dependency, with the peace process dropping to third place.

Key Finding-9

China's status as Myanmar's largest economic partner concerning

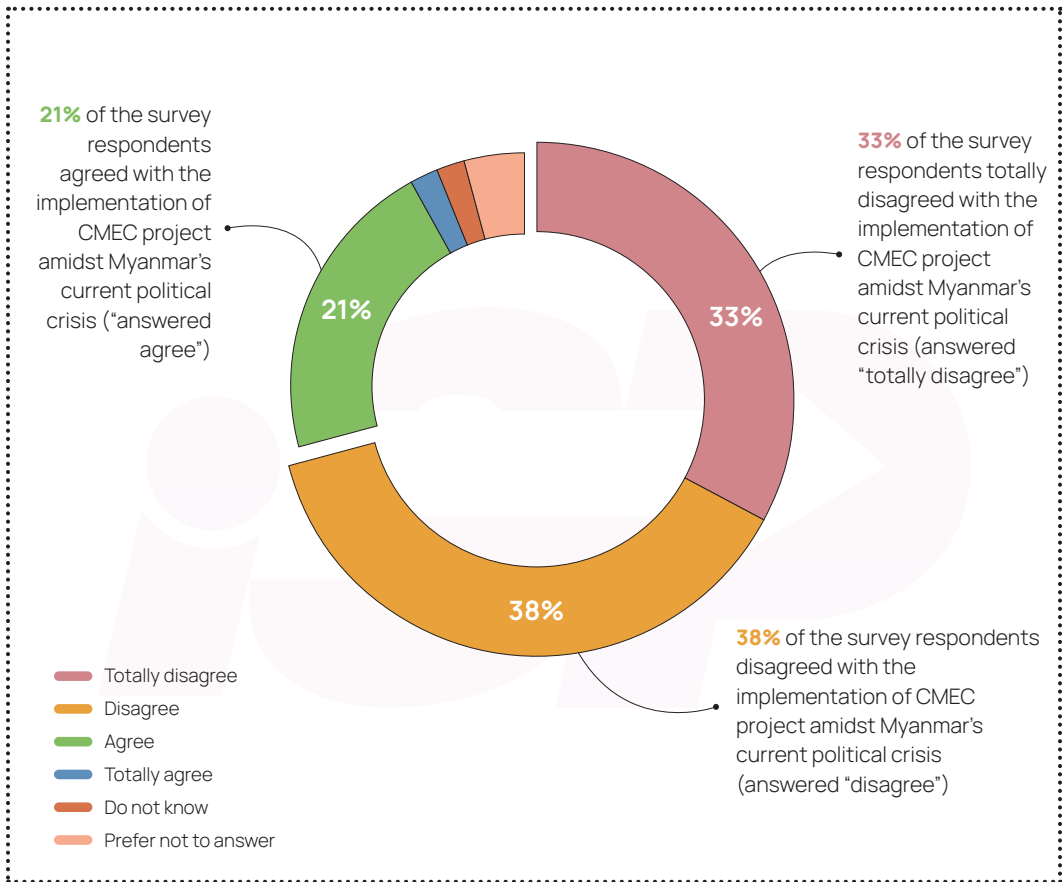


64%

While **31 percent** of respondents welcomed China as Myanmar's largest economic partner, **64 percent** perceived this development as concerning. Compared to the previous year, when **58 percent** found it concerning, there has been a **six percent** increase. Additionally, there has been a **five percent** increase in respondents who find it welcoming, with **26 percent** of respondents holding this view last year.

**Key Finding-10**

Many disliked the implementation of CMEC Project amidst the current crisis

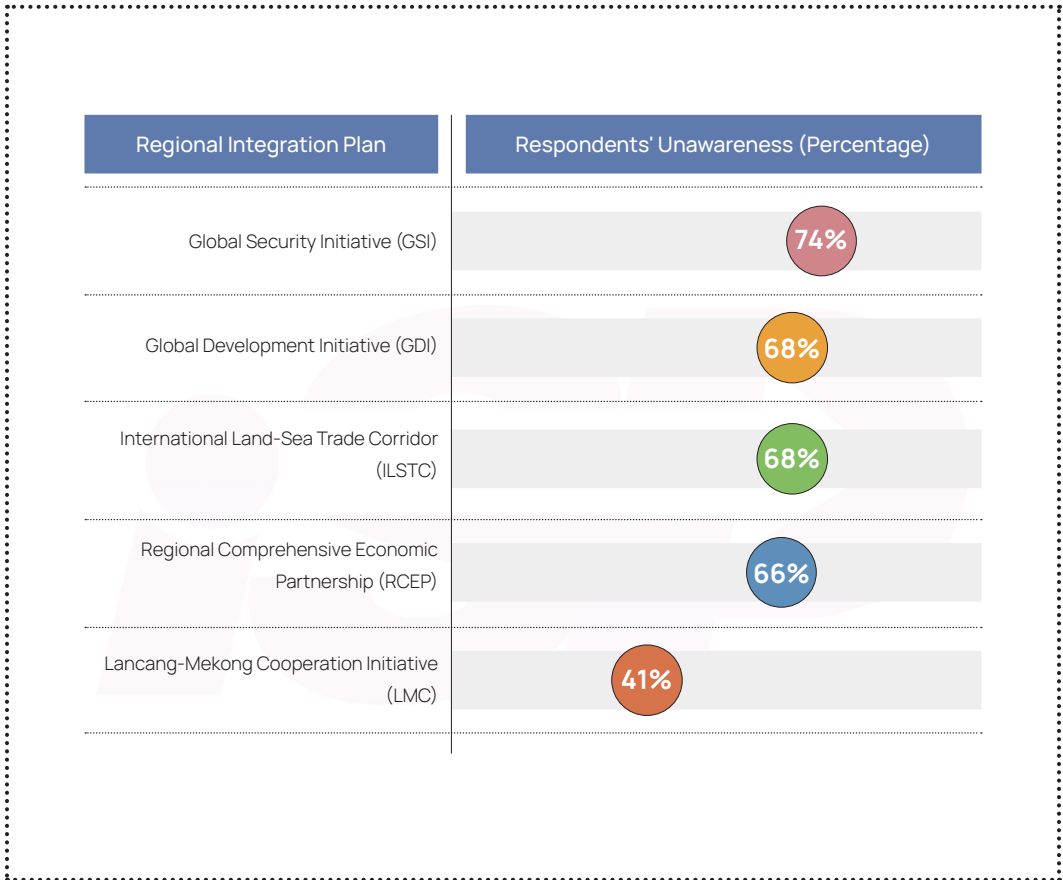


**71%**

The majority of respondents expressed disagreement with the implementation of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) amidst Myanmar's current political crisis, with **71 percent** disagreeing compared to **23 percent** who agreed. The significant level of disagreement warrants further research or study.

Key Finding-11

Many are unaware of China's regional integration plan



74%

Many respondents are unaware of China's regional integration plan within Myanmar. **Seventy-four percent** of the respondents were unaware of GSI while **over 65 percent** were unaware of ILSTC and RCEP. It is an interesting matter that general awareness about these plans is low even among the policy community, despite China's effort to increase awareness toward these initiatives through media and social media.