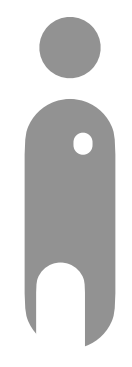


# Intersex Bodies Global South Alliances

Report

# We, the intersex people from the Global South

Latin America  
and Caribbean  
Edition



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# Intersex Bodies Global South Alliances

Report



**GATE** hosted a webinar to discuss the trajectories of intersex-led movements in the Global South. In its first iteration, we invited activists from six different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The **Latin American and Caribbean Seminars** are the first of a three regional webinars series, one for each great region of the Global South, aimed at producing a space where local, national, and regional organizations working to the promotion and protection of the human rights of intersex people can encounter to discuss their experiences when it comes to their political engagement.

With this project, we cover a great variety of topics regarding intersex issues in the Global South. By providing a safe space for intersex Global South movements and activists to meet, we intended to foster peer-learning processes on advocacy and capacity development strategies while tracking down recommendations and priorities for human rights advocacy for intersex people. In stimulating the debate on sex variations and intersex issues at the regional level, we would like to assess national and regional trends and best practices, and persisting challenges regarding sex variations and intersex issues, while providing an encounter opportunity not very common for intersex people in Latin America and Caribbean.

Participants were invited based on regional and background diversity, meaning we hope to hear from range of actors about their experiences and projects on intersex matters. Each panelist produced a five-page article on the topic presented and their articles will be part of a final memoir publication to be released soon.



# Our bodies Our alliances

## Concept Note



Our bodies are our first experience in the world, and not only for intersex people. Our bodies are conditions for our very possibility. They represent our chance to take action. Instead, for intersex people, our bodies are an impossibility, our first struggle to be and exist in this world. That is why speaking on intersex bodies is the same as debating intersex politics.

For **GATE**, it is vital to foster alliances between intersex bodies from the Global South. Compared to intersex groups in the Global North, data suggests that intersex groups in the Global South and East regions are much less likely to receive funding, have access to community-building initiatives, and regional and global advocacy entry points.

Despite so many constraints, through activism we have found a way to survive, in this life, in this time and space, as long as we live in our bodies and territories. Over the past few years, our way of being and resisting has gained more strength and momentum against the force of a world that mutilates us since birth.

Their secret has become our public issue. An issue that catalyzes an activist movement and interconnects multiple agents. We have been building a complex network of alliances to save our lives; to ensure our integrity. That is a task only possible within the dense network of alliances we have articulated with increasingly greater insistence, in order to save our lives and ensure our bodies' integrity.

Articulating more alliances with brothers, sisters, and siblings with lived intersex experiences is a step in pursuing ways to survive while affirming and honoring our bodies in the precise ways we exist in the world.

# Intersex Bodies Global South Alliances

## Report

### Objectives

- Provide a safe space for intersex Global South movements and activists to meet;
- Foster peer-learning processes on advocacy and capacity development strategies;
- Track down recommendations and priorities for human rights advocacy for intersex people;
- Stimulate the debate on sex variations and intersex issues at the regional level;
- Assess national and regional trends and best practices, and persisting challenges regarding sex variations and intersex issues;
- Publicize intersex activists' experiences, challenges, perspectives, etc.

### Methods

The meeting was conducted virtually using Zoom® and following a format of presentations by speakers, with subsequent facilitated discussions in rounds of debate when the public made questions, and comments.

# Panelists

## We, intersex people, from the Global South



 **Hana Aoi**  
ella|ela|she @vivir.intersex

Hana Aoi is a Mexican writer and activist for the human rights of intersex people. She has a Master in Women's Studies from UAM-Xochimilco. She coordinates the project Vivir y Ser Intersex, a space for critical thinking about intersexuality in the Spanish language, and is a regular contributor to Brújula Intersexual and Proyecto Intersexual.



 **Bea Is**  
ella|ela|she @peru.intersex

Human rights activist for intersex people in Peru. First Peruvian woman to write a historical account of her intersex journey for the online portal Brújula Intersexual. Founder of the Asociación Peruana de Personas Intersexos, the first meeting point, support and information for intersex people and their families in Peru.



 **Agustin Rojas**  
el|ele|he @colesdomrd

Agustin Rojas is a 58-year-old intersex trans man. He has been involved in social activism for 5 years, raising the visibility of intersex issues in the Dominican Republic through COLESDOM. He is founder and treasurer of the first Diversa Multiple Savings, Credit and Services Cooperative (COOPDIVERSA). He is also a member of COLESDOM's Ethics Committee.



# Panelists

## We, intersex people, from the Global South



 **Ceci Lopez Bensch**  
elle|elu|they @argentina\_intersex

Ceci Lopez Bensch is an intersex activist from Argentina, a Geography student and member of the Center for Studies on Sexual Diversity (CEDISEX) at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras of the Universidad Nacional de Tucuman. Founder of the organization Argentina Intersex.



PHOTO | Guilherme Licurgo | @paiubadigital

 **Carolina Lara de Oliveira**  
ella|ela|she @bancadafeministapsol

Carolina Lara is a black *travesti* intersex woman living with HIV. She is a Co-Councillor, writer, and Master's student in Human and Social Sciences at UFABC.



 **Franco Andrés Pradenas**  
elle|elu|they @intersexpacificosur

Co-General Coordinator and Advocacy and Network Coordinator. Transmasculine non-binary, pansexual and person with disability, in continuous re-signification and construction.



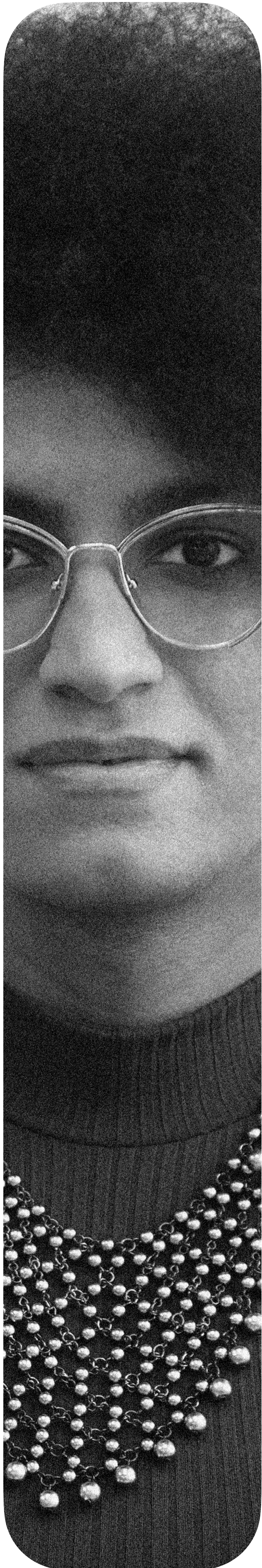


**Bea Is**

@peru.intersex

Asociación Peruana de  
Personas Intersexuales





**Carolina Lara de Oliveira**  
ella|ela|she @bancadafeministapsol

|PHOTOS| Guilherme Licurgo @pajubadigital





# Intersex Bodies Global South Alliances

Report

**We, the intersex people  
from the global South, are**

Enunciating an intersex political actor  
Narrating new intersex politics

We, the intersex people of the global South, are human beings. We are human beings capable of being loved and living healthy and happy without the mutilation of our bodies. We are the hope of a future world. We are complex people, dreamers. We are living proof this system is not what they say it is. We are ungovernable bodies. We are the revolutionary agents responsible for our liberation from colonialism. They gave us many different names, except humans.

**Yet, we are living resistance forms.**



## **We, the intersex people from the global South, demand**

**Enunciating an intersex political actor  
Narrating new intersex politics**

And what do we, the intersex people of the global South, want? Truth is we wish our rights are respected as the human beings we are. We want to be worthy of being called human beings too. We want the right to dream, to live, and to our bodies' integrity. We want our bodies healthy and whole. Intersex people from the global South want freedom, dignity, and autonomy. We want free and informed consent. We want access to the truth. We want reparation. We want justice. We want our bodily diversity and our human rights respected. We want to connect with the rest of the global South, see our communities, meet our peers and hear one another. That is also what we want from the world, to listen to us.

**That is all.**

# National alliances

## Intersex national activist networks

### Report

**Carolina** states there is an extensive network of groups and individuals, in more or less institutionalized formats, acting to promote and protect the human rights of intersex people, in Brazil. The Councilor cites a number of Brazilian organizations and activists which articulate intersex issues nationally, as highlights the diversity of arrangements, actors, and purposes increasingly articulated in the public arena.

**Franco** also highlights the relevance of these kinds of community and activist spaces, increasingly present in Chile.

**Ceci** reports, for example, the occurrence of the first intersex manifestation in Tucumán. In the province, a march challenged the intersex management protocols adopted by a local hospital.

# Regional alliances

## Intersex regional activist networks

### Report

Face-to-face personal connection and meeting opportunities have been a key element in the emergence and institutional strengthening of intersex communities at the national and regional levels. Despite the very few regional opportunities for Latin American and Caribbean intersex communities, **Ceci and Bea** highlight their participation in the **II Latin American and Caribbean Intersex Regional Conference**, in 2020, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Bea** says the increasing articulation of national and regional partnerships has been helpful in overcoming our vast regional organizing challenges. As she tells it, the Asociación Peruana de Intersexuales reflects precisely a collaboration process with Latin American and Caribbean activists and groups, which has made the emergence of new intersex organizations possible in the region through the sharing of information and experiences.

**Ceci** also reports on partnerships with organizations and research institutes in Mexico and Chile, when it supported the production of informational and educational material.

**Hana** shares her experiences navigating across academic spaces where she connected with a network of intersex researchers from various parts of Latin America and could find support for her research interests and agenda.

# Broader alliances

## LGBTI, Feminist and other Human Rights Networks

### Report

**Bea, Ceci, and Carolina** highlight the relevance of adopting an intersectional approach towards our identities and activism, especially in the global South, considering historical backgrounds.

**Carolina** remembers her longstanding engagement with the landless and homeless movements, and the interrelations between race, gender, and serology status, as an intersex black travesti living with HIV. She recalls episodes of racism at hospitals, where she was victimized by stigma, discrimination, and genital mutilation surgeries without anesthesia.

**Ceci** calls attention to the interfaces between the intersex fight and the movements of people with disabilities, people living with HIV, and migrants, as he believes in the importance of strengthening, even more, these links and alliances, taking into account the political gains and programmatic affinities.

**Bea** highlights the work of the Peruvian Intersex Association with feminist, LGBTQI, or broader human rights-focused organizations. According to Bea, it is very important to raise awareness among other related groups and people in order to mainstream intersex issues across the wider network of allies.

# Society

## Intersex societal interactions

### Report

**Hana** highlights the heterogeneity of Mexican society and the important role of her work centered on collecting and sharing the stories and experiences of Mexican intersex people. In her opinion, making people's stories visible has the potential to generate solidarity for the intersex struggles, while raising awareness and informing society in a pedagogical and ethical manner, through the words and accounts of the actors themselves, the intersex people.

**Bea** has a similar argument, as she mentions the creation of the digital media of the Asociación Peruana de Intersexuales in order to share reliable information about intersex issues across Peruvian online spaces. Her work would be complemented by frequent participation in expos and workshops, where Bea would circulate informative material and share her experiences as an intersex person.



# State

## Intesex State-society dialogues

### Report

**Carolina** reiterates both power and burden coming from her sitting on São Paulo City Council. Carolina is the first intersex person openly living with HIV to assume a position in a South American parliament. The only of her kind across a whole subcontinent, reflecting a very recent repertoire of interaction for LAC intersex people to take part in State institutions and engage in electoral processes. Carolina highlights some of the work she has done in proposing some bills on intersex issues although she considers difficulties and challenges in negotiating with a majorly extreme right-wing conservative elected assembly.

**Bea** shares her experiences in collaborating with the Municipalidad de Lima in the *Proyecto Diversxs*, which have paved the way for opportunities to join conversations with the Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables del Peru. Bea also reiterates her willingness and availability to work more on advocacy and policy strategies within the State in order to advance institutional policy frameworks on intersex issues.

**Ceci** shares his experience in advocating for a draft bill on the comprehensive protection of intersex people in Argentina. Yet, Ceci stresses that “el estado sigue en duda con la comunidad intersexual” in Argentina.

**Franco** also shares their interest in opportunities to collaborate with the national Ministry of Health around pandemic and mutilation matters.

**Hana** collaborates with some examples of Mexican institutional achievements within the State in reference to a few public policies and surveys conducted by the government.

# Covid-19

## What is your emergency?

### Report

**Ceci and Franco** point out many health necessities and challenges disproportionately affecting intersex people from low and middle-income countries during the pandemic.

**Ceci** warns about the increased number of intersex people's accounts narrating lack of access and discriminatory treatment while looking for health services, life-saving therapies, medicaments, etc.

Yet, **Ceci and Bea** acknowledge the many online opportunities to engage with activism and activists occurring throughout pandemic, while highlighting the unwavering relevance of in-person encounters.

# Global South

## Challenging the structure & looking for agency

Report

**Carolina** draws attention to the processes of colonization and black and indigenous enslavement as key factors of Brazilian, Latin American, and Caribbean historical backgrounds. She believes that the exchange of knowledge between the countries of the South is a means to articulate collective and inclusive resistance to address both our territories' history and the interests of the people historically most affected by colonialist politics. Carolina believes these historical processes influence our current politics which she describes as particularly challenging due to conservative and religiously-based fundamentalist ideas, people, and groups.

**Franco and Bea** share **Carolina's** concern about the harmful effects of the increased presence of anti-LGBTI political actors in the public arena, as in Chile and Peru's recent examples. Franco takes the opportunity to highlight bad-intentioned actors, alleged allies, that have captured SOGIESC issues as means for market and profit ends, a phenomenon called pinkwashing.

# Global South

## Challenging the structure & looking for agency

### Report

**Hana and Carolina** agree about the need for critical thinking spaces around intersex issues.

**Hana** says that intersex issues are a powerful narrative to counter the unequal distribution of power and agency across our societies. She considers that the intersex movement can redraw the world's political horizons for our region, provided it is through truly community-based and collective processes of mutual interchange of subaltern experiences.

**Bea and Ceci** stress the constraints related to fundraising tasks and opportunities. From their perspectives, much of their work and projects have received no financial support and have been conducted on a voluntary basis.

**Ceci** narrates having an extremely high workload, involving harmful exposure risks of publicly assuming his identity and sharing his story while receiving no financial assistance from national and international funds.

**Bea** highlights the bureaucratic issues regarding organizations' legal registration and the requirement of specialized services for finance and operations management.



[Follow-up | Seguimiento | Monitoramento]  
[LAC] Cuerpos Intersex, Alianzas del Sur Global | Corpos Intersexo,  
Alianças do Sul Global | Intersex Bodies, Global South Alliances

Greetings! Saludos! Saudações!

[EN] The following questionnaire is a follow-up survey about the activities of **Intersex Bodies, Alliances of the Global South - Latin America and Caribbean Ed.**, on July 13, 2022, 17:00 PM AST. I kindly ask you to respond to the questions. The feedback you provide will be of great value in providing reliable information to inform our work in the future. It should also contribute with information for next year's Strategic Sustainability Plan of GATE's Intersex Bodies.

[ES] El siguiente cuestionario es una encuesta de seguimiento sobre la actividad **Cuerpos Intersexo, Alianzas del Sur Global - Ed. América Latina y el Caribe**, el 13 de julio de 2022, 17:00 PM AST. Le ruego que responda a las preguntas. Su evaluación será de gran importancia para aportar información confiable que sirva de base para nuestro trabajo futuro. También contribuirá con información para el Plan Estratégico de Sustentabilidad del Programa Intersexo de GATE del próximo año.

[PT] O questionário a seguir é um questionário de acompanhamento sobre a atividade **Corpos Intersexo, Alianças do Sul Global - Ed. América Latina e Caribe**, em 13 de julho de 2022, 17:00 PM AST. Peço-lhe encarecidamente que responda às perguntas. Sua avaliação será muito valiosa para fornecer informações confiáveis para nosso trabalho no futuro. Ela também contribuirá com informações para o Plano Estratégico de Sustentabilidade do Programa Intersexo da GATE do próximo ano.

OK

0 of 17 answered

4.5★  
average rating



Rating  
Overall

59%  
Very positive

30%  
Positive



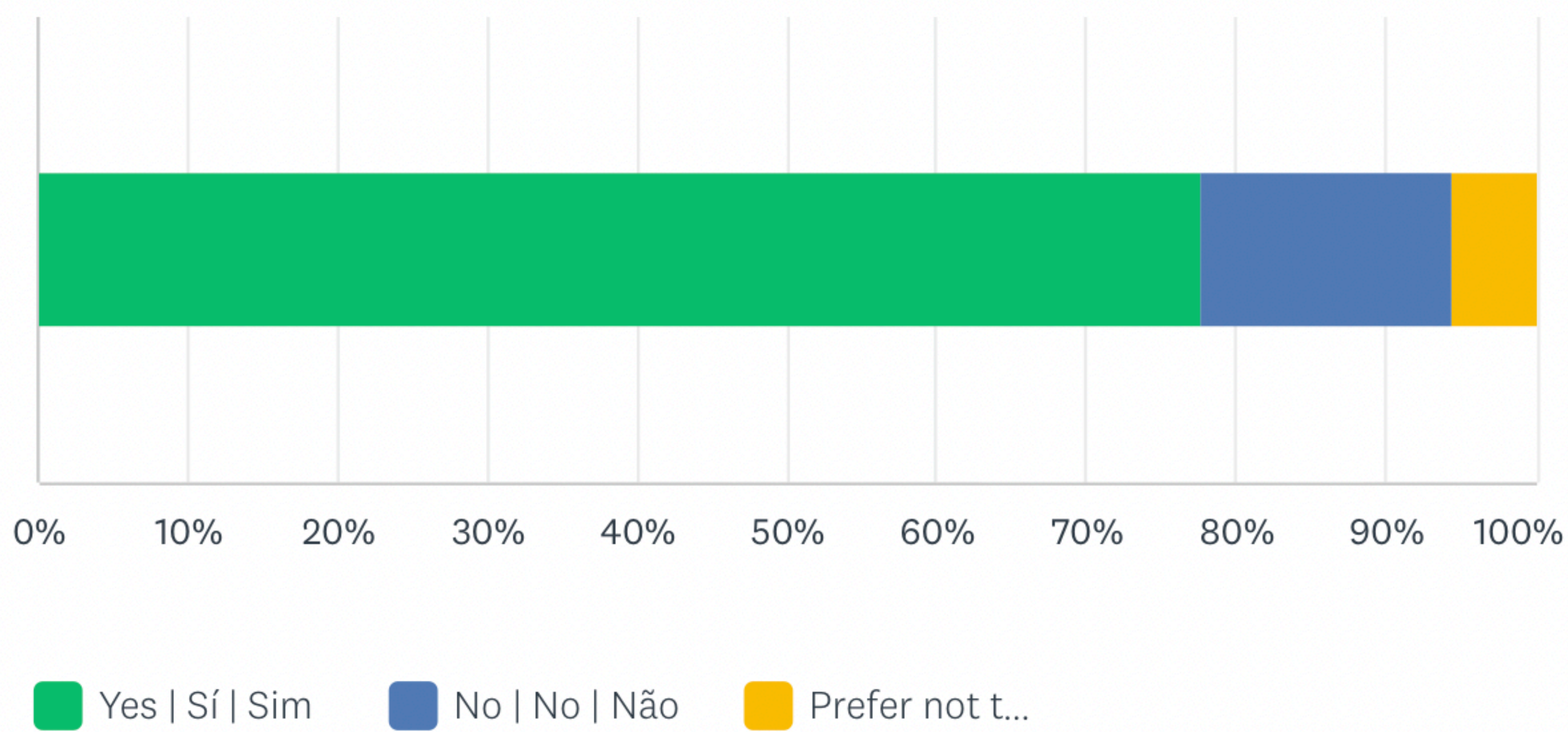


## Audience

Intersex person or relative of an intersex person

**78%**

of respondents are intersex people or relatives of an intersex person



## Location

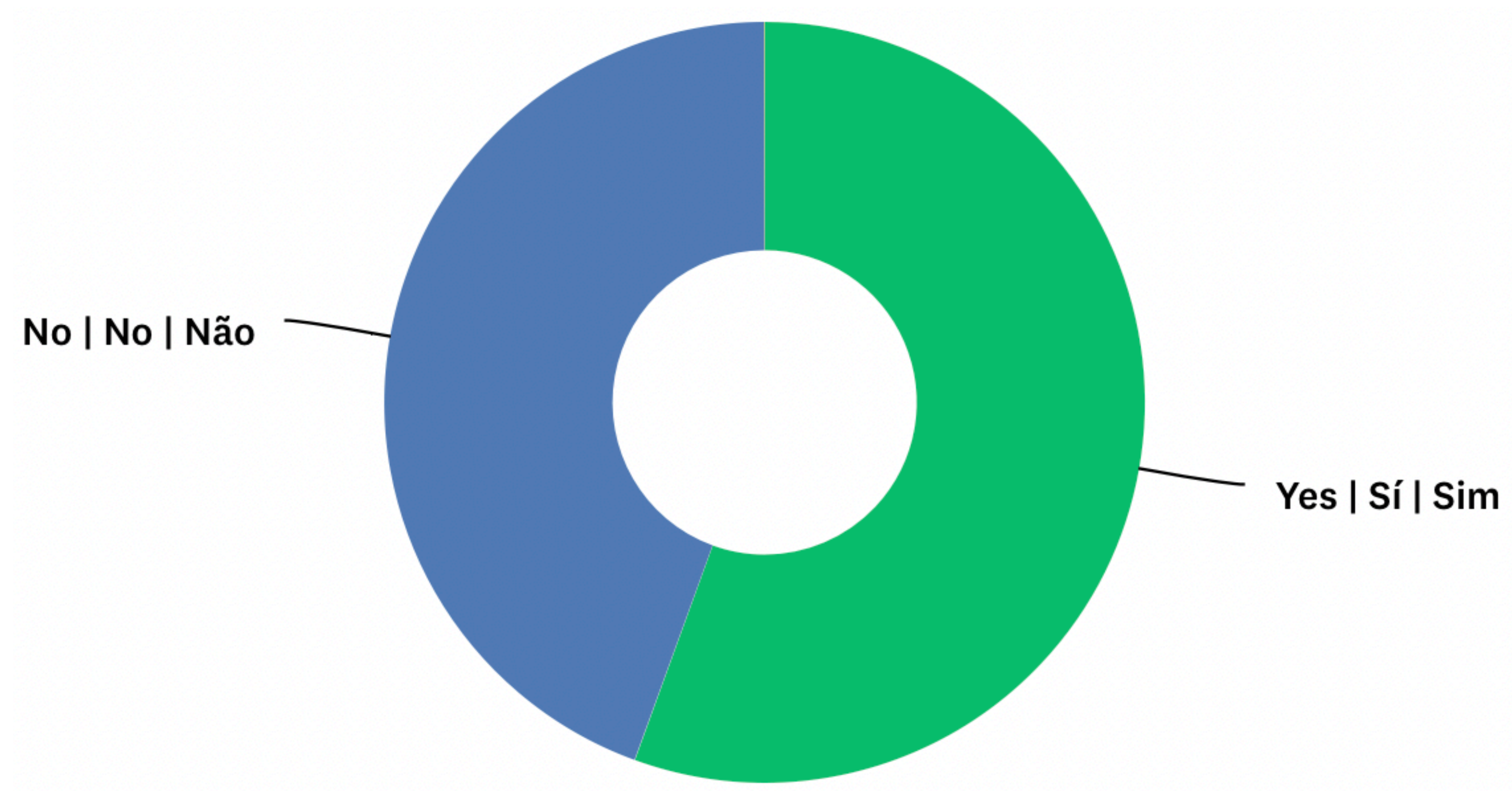
Country or territory in the Global South

**55%**

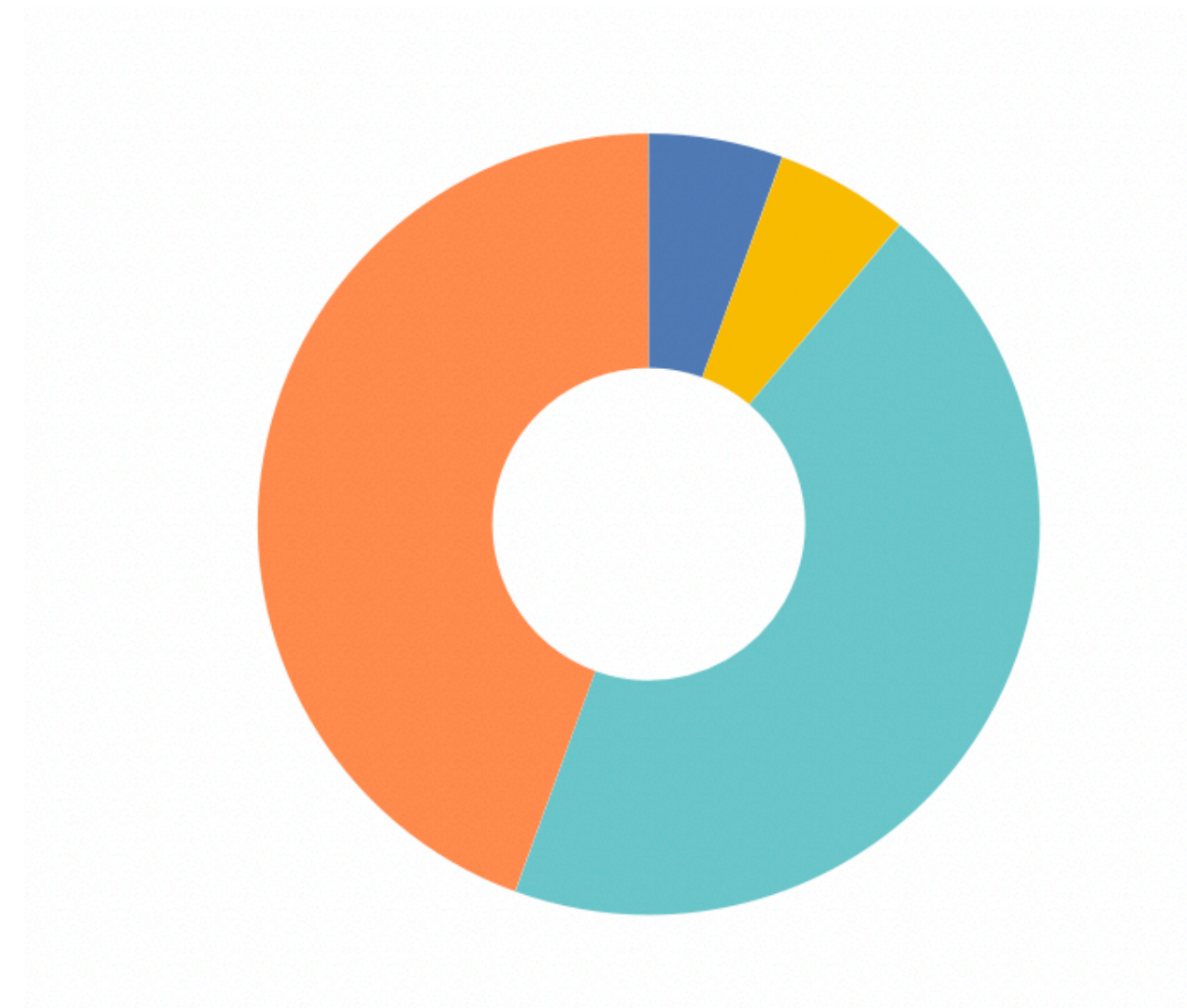
of respondents are located in a country or territory from the Global South

**45%**

of respondents are located in a country or territory from the Global North



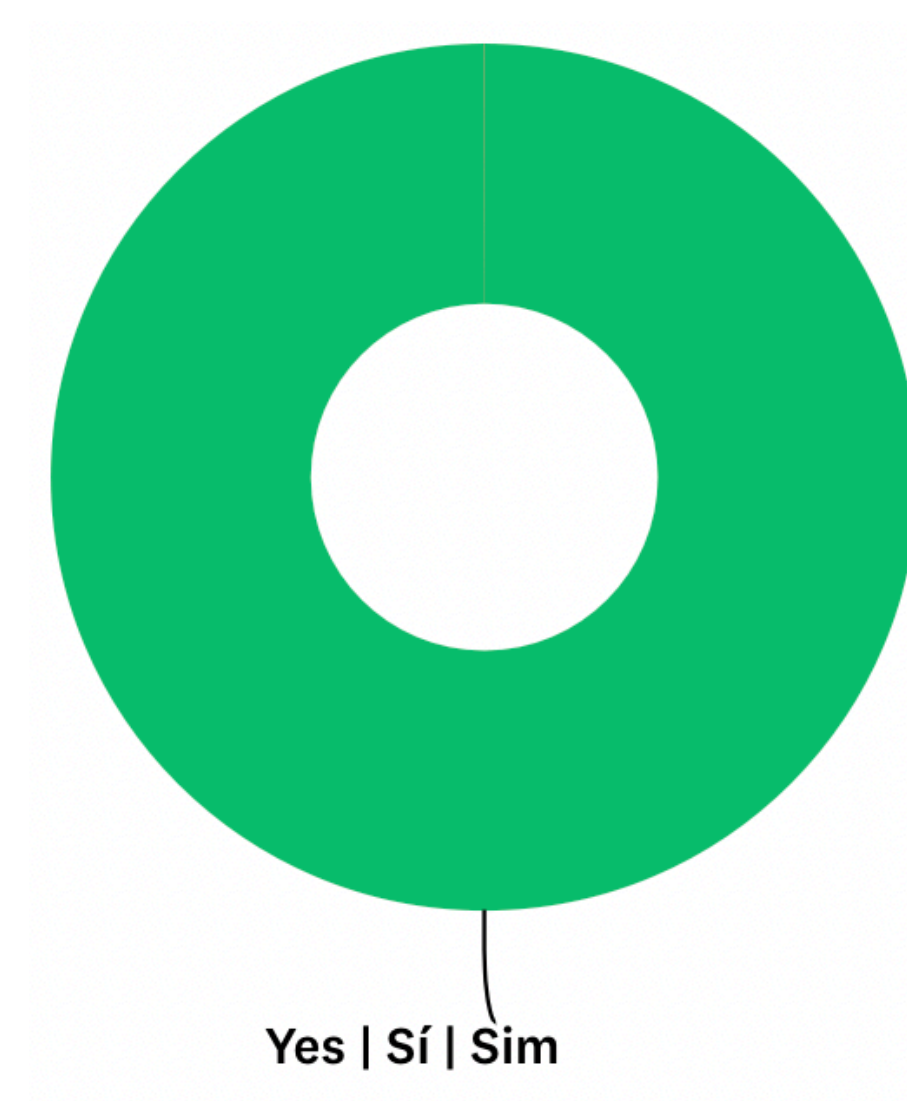




### Satisfaction Overall

**45%**  
Very satisfied

**45%**  
Satisfied



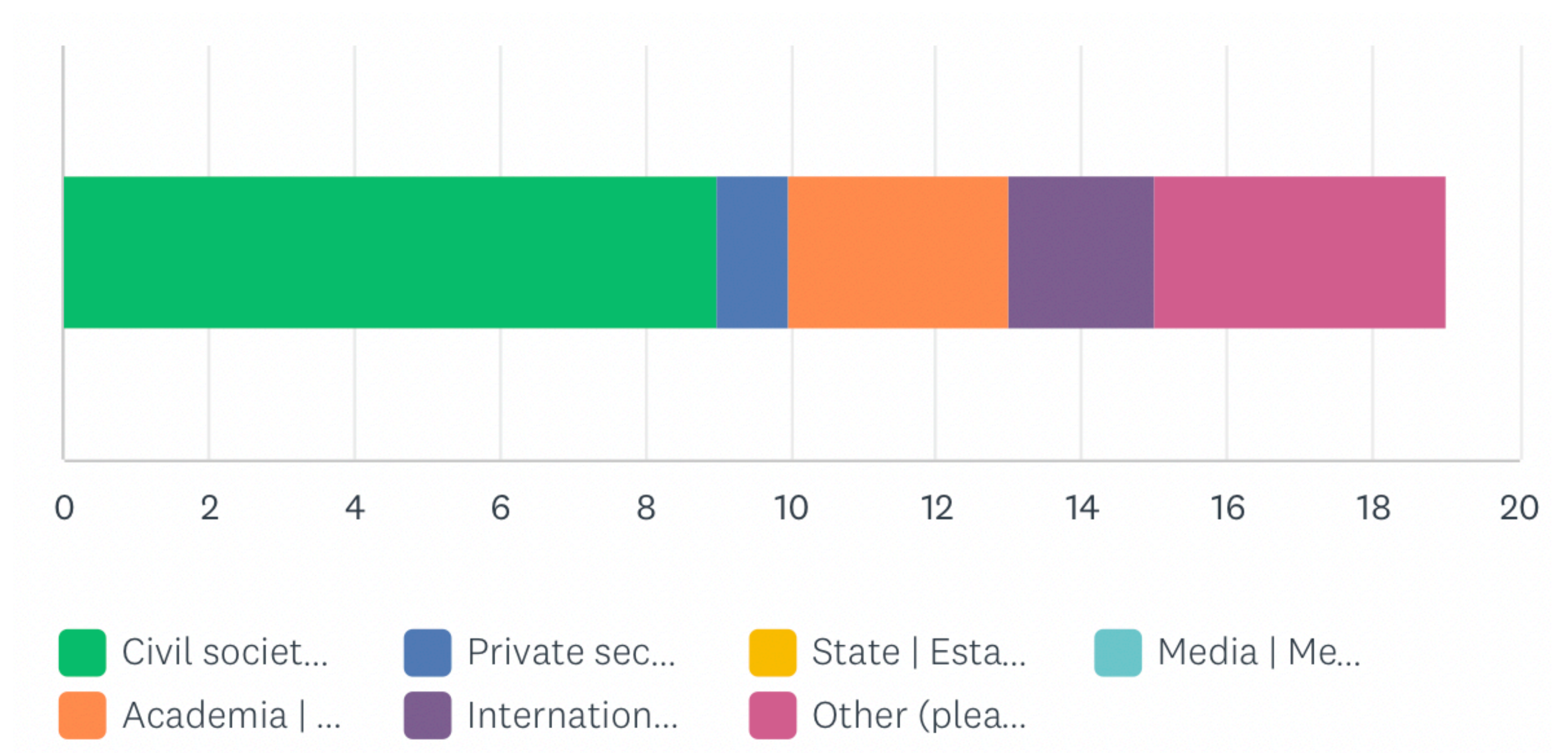
### Interest in joining future activities

**100%**  
of respondents affirm they will join our future events

### Background Personal profile

**53%**  
of respondents identifies as **civil society** actors

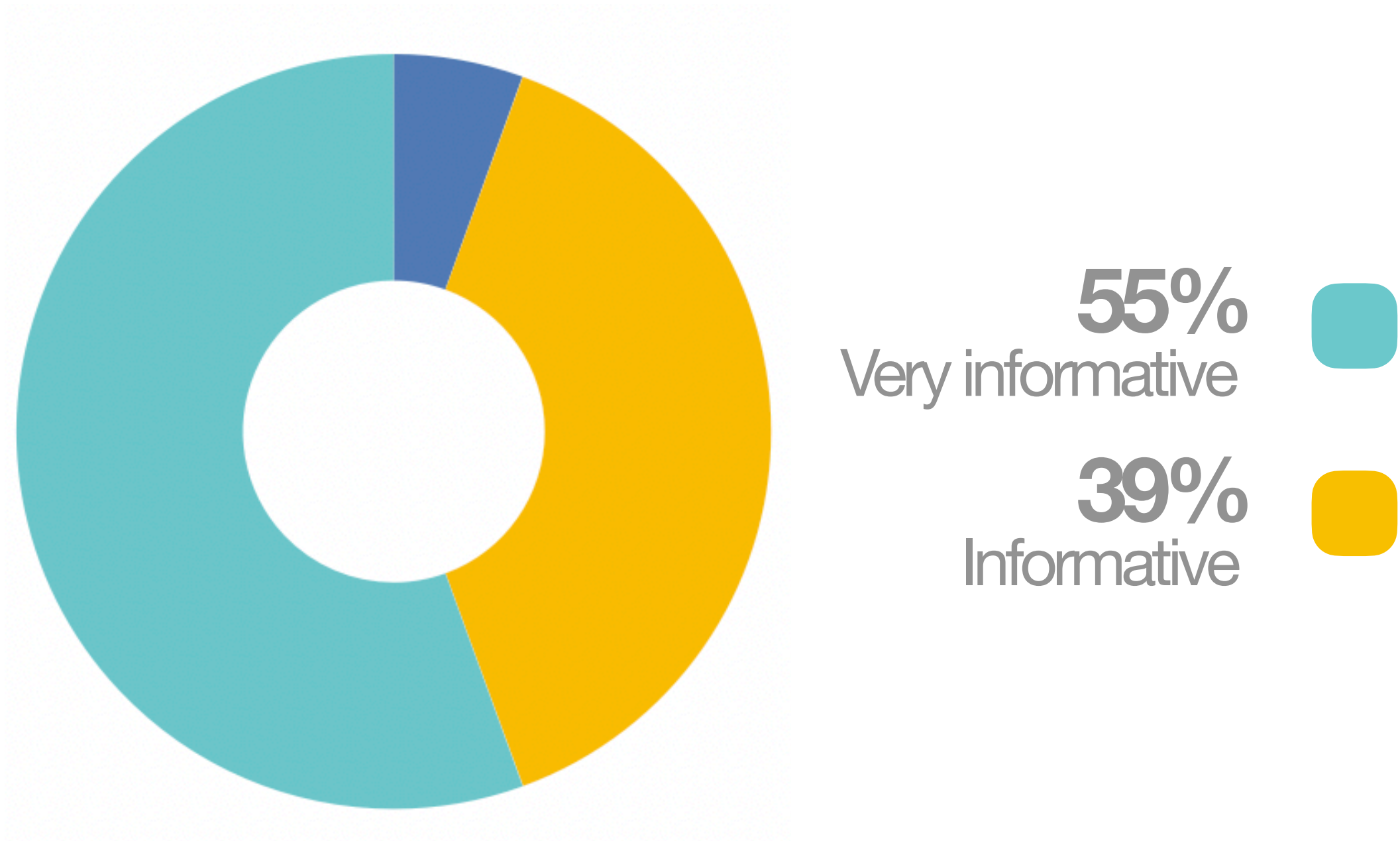
**18%**  
of respondents identifies as **academia** actors





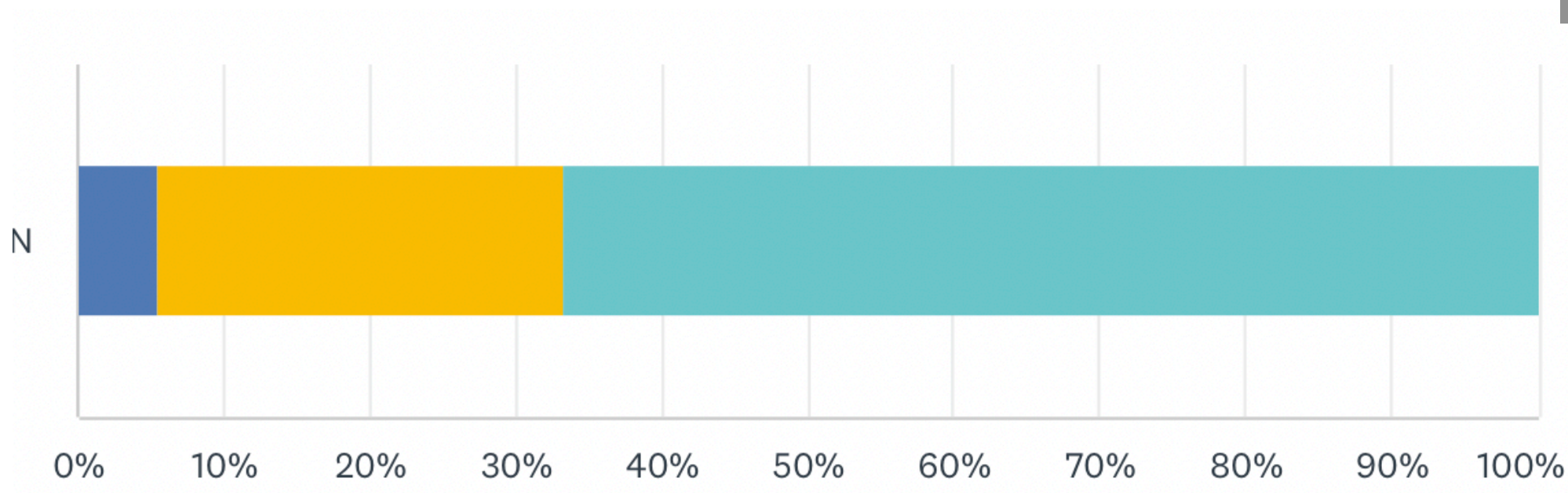
## Learning

How informative?



## Multiplication

Engaging others



**67%**  
Of respondents would **very much likely** recommend the seminar to a colleague

**28%**  
Of respondents would **likely** recommend the seminar to a colleague

## Recommendations

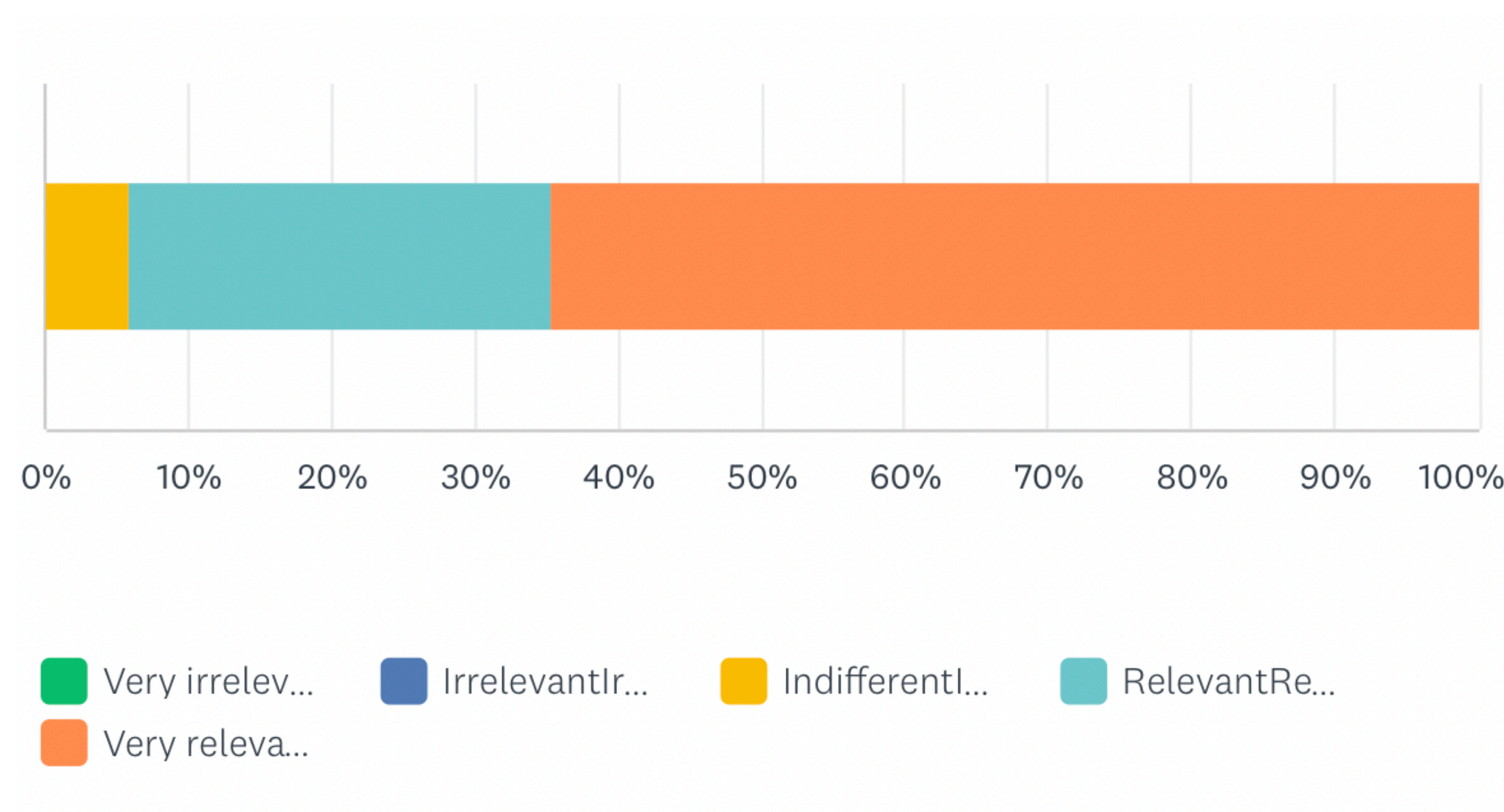
Ways to improve

Compliment	26.67%
Duration	26.67%
Inclusion	26.67%
Interpretation	6.67%
Moderation	20%

### Respondents recommended

- simultaneous interpretation  
ocasional issues
- panelists' selection should be  
more inclusive
- seminars' duration should be  
longer
- panelists and moderator should  
observe time limits





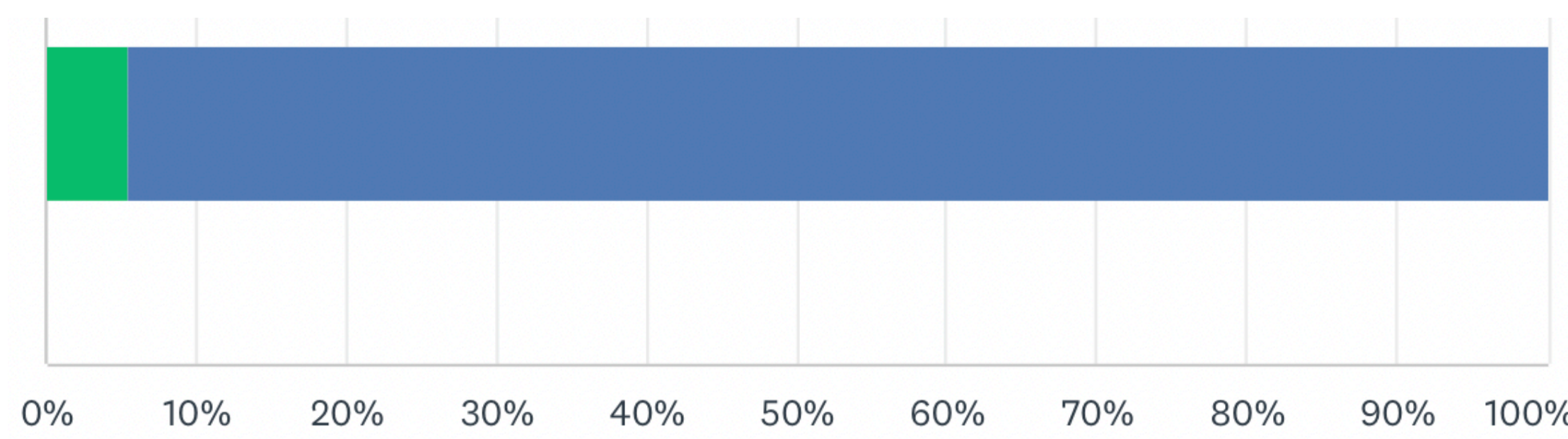
### Relevance Overall

**95%**  
Relevant & Very Relevant

**65%**  
Very relevant

Very irrelevant Irrelevant Irrelevant Indifferent Relevant Very relevant

### Accessibility Technical difficulties



**01**

Reported accessibility issues  
[Portuguese Interpretation]

Yes No

### Purpose Extent the event met intersex communities' needs

**81%**  
average number

