

The 17th Plenum of the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committee

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**Developments in International Relations
Since the G20 Summit and the Impact on
Taiwan's Security**

Mainland Affairs Council

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Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen:
I'm honored to be invited by this committee to present the report titled the "Developments in International Relations Since the G20 Summit and the Impact on Taiwan's Security" on behalf of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC). Your valuable insights and guidance are deeply appreciated.

1. Since the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) (hereinafter the "20th Party Congress"), the CCP has been using head-of-state diplomacy to expand its international influence and overcome containment efforts by the United States (US) and its allies. During the Biden-Xi meeting at the G20 summit, President Biden indicated that the US would engage in competition with China but pledged that such competition would be managed and kept from descending into conflict; meanwhile, he called on the two sides to join hands in confronting global challenges. Xi Jinping urged the US to correctly interpret both China's domestic and foreign policies and its strategic intentions. He emphasized that China did not seek to change the current international order, interfere in US domestic affairs, or challenge or replace the US. Xi also argued that decoupling and breaking connections would run counter to market principles. China has recently resumed dialogue with the US to establish the "guiding principles and strategic frameworks for China-US relations." It seeks thereby to curb US actions against China and prevent harm to China's interests.

At the Group of 20 (G20) Summit and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings, Xi Jinping met with the leaders of numerous countries to strengthen interaction and cooperation. He emphasized the need to maintain strategic autonomy and expressed opposition to the politicization of economic and trade issues and the formation of rival blocs. In addition, Xi promised to expand investment and ensure that the industrial and supply chains remain unobstructed. Through its "Belt and Road Initiative," "Global Development Initiative," and "Global Security Initiative," China has been deepening relations with member states of the Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN) and other developing countries

in an attempt to overcome US containment efforts, stabilize the external environment, and strengthen its international influence and power to speak.

2. There is international concern over the situation in the Taiwan Strait. The CCP's actions in the region have implications on peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. During the Biden-Xi meeting, President Biden emphasized opposition to unilateral changes by any side to the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and expressed disapproval of the CCP's increasingly coercive and aggressive behavior towards Taiwan. These actions undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and threaten regional security and global prosperity. Japan's prime minister reiterated the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait during a meeting with Xi Jinping; the Australian prime minister voiced support for "maintaining the status quo"; and the prime minister of New Zealand expressed concerns over the Taiwan Strait issue. These statements have shown that regional parties continue to closely monitor the security situation across the Taiwan Strait. Xi Jinping, in turn, urged the US to abide by the "one China" policy and adhere to the basic norms governing international relations and the Three Communiqués; he also warned Japan not to interfere in China's internal affairs and continued to demand international support for its "one China" stance with the intent to isolate Taiwan and prevent the internationalization of the Taiwan Strait issue.

Recently, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and North Korean missile tests have heightened regional tensions. In its report for the 20th Party Congress, the CCP emphasized the need to further develop strategic capabilities, accelerate combat readiness, and make more preparation to win local wars. To counter the concerns expressed by the US and its allies over regional developments, the CCP has expanded its claims of many rights in the Taiwan Strait, making incursions with its military aircraft and vessels into the air and sea areas around Taiwan, and conducting reconnaissance and patrol operations in the East China Sea and Western Pacific. These actions are all meant to shape a new regional order. The CCP's subsequent measures will affect peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and East Asia and therefore deserve close attention.

3. Following the 20th Party Congress, the CCP is expected to intensify its comprehensive deployment of "opposing independence and interference, promoting unification and integration" against Taiwan. In the CCP's white paper on Taiwan and report for the 20th Party Congress, the CCP reaffirmed its consistent policy position on Taiwan; emphasized stances such as "opposing independence and promoting unification," "opposing foreign interference," and fully implementing the so-called "Overall Strategy"; and further underlined its refusal to commit to renouncing the use of force. The CCP also announced its intention to promote consultations on unification with various political parties, sectors, and grassroots individuals in Taiwan. Moreover, the CCP reiterated that it would promote "integrated development" and oppose economic decoupling. In recent times, the CCP is still stressing its unilateral historical interpretation that downgrades Taiwan and is completely misleading. It has also been seeking to disrupt the Taiwanese society and weaken the morale of Taiwanese people through its united front infiltration and cognitive warfare. Meanwhile, the CCP has also been using military intimidation to coerce Taiwan into accepting its political framework, deter attention from the international community, and obstruct interactions between Taiwan and other parties.

During the Biden-Xi meeting, the CCP leader emphasized that Taiwan is at the very core of China's core interests and the first "red line" that cannot be crossed in China-US relations, a statement meant to hinder Taiwan-US interaction. The CCP has also used the Anti-secession Law to threaten non-peaceful means and justify its use of force. These positions contradict the fact that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are not subordinate to each other, violate the principle of peace underlying international relations, and are opposed by the mainstream public opinion in Taiwan. Going forward, the CCP will continue to base its Taiwan work on "opposing independence and interference, promoting unification and integration, and using the carrot-and-stick approach" as it strengthens its comprehensive deployment and preparations on the Taiwan issue. This is the main national security threat facing Taiwan.

4. The government is committed to maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait. It will safeguard Taiwan by firmly upholding to the "Four Commitments" and "Four Resiliences." The government remains consistent in its policy stance to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. It will not act provocatively or rashly. It will continue to firmly uphold the "Four Commitments" and strengthen the "Four Resiliences" to safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy. It is also cooperating with like-minded countries, building self-defense capabilities, closely following the CCP's actions towards Taiwan, and responding appropriately to safeguard national security and Taiwan's best interests.

Maintaining cross-Strait peace and regional prosperity is the shared responsibility of both sides of the Taiwan Strait and all regional parties. With respect to ensuring national security, the MAC will, in consultation with relevant agencies, bolster cross-Strait security management mechanisms to counter the CCP's infiltration and hybrid pressures. Meanwhile, to continue promoting healthy and orderly cross-Strait exchanges, the government will conduct rolling review and make gradual adjustment to the border control measures for mainland Chinese, Hong Kong, and Macao residents in view of the cross-Strait situation, public interest, economic development, and pandemic prevention. We also call on the Beijing authorities to stop imposing its political views on and stop using militarily intimidation against Taiwan, face up to the objective truth and fact of the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and handle differences in a truly peaceful and rational manner.

This concludes my report. I welcome any feedback from the committee members.