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Home Affairs Committee

7th Session of the 10th Legislative Yuan

**Report on the Operations of the
Mainland Affairs Council
(Oral Report)**

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Honorable Chairman, Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I'm honored to be invited by this committee to report the progress of the operations of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC). In addition to this oral report, we have prepared a detailed written report. Your guidance and feedback are greatly appreciated.

I. Recent Work Focus

1. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) intensifies implementation of its Taiwan work, whereas the government steadfastly preserves peace in the Taiwan Strait.

In the reports for last year's 20th National Congress of the CCP and for this year's "Two Sessions" as well as in many speeches, the CCP continues to emphasize the full implementation of its Overall Policy on Taiwan. It has also reiterated its established Taiwan policies and political frameworks, including the "one China" principle. Recently, the CCP has intensified the promotion of its Taiwan work by frequently inviting Taiwanese political parties, local leaders, business representatives, farmers and fishermen, grassroots individuals, and members of religious groups to visit mainland China. The CCP has also been exploiting interaction and exchanges with Taiwanese businesspeople and youth based in mainland China to advance its unification policy and push for the resumption of cross-Strait exchanges, specifically by claiming that it would facilitate the importation of Taiwanese agricultural and fishery products to mainland China and provide them with the so-called "equal treatment." Moreover, the CCP continues to conduct military activities around Taiwan regularly as a pressure campaign, and obstruct progress in international interaction with Taiwan and global concern over the situation in the Taiwan Strait. The MAC continues to carefully assess these developments and make appropriate response to firmly preserve peace in the Taiwan Strait.

2. Assessing the CCP's political and economic situation, making prudent responses, and safeguarding national security

Since last year, the Beijing authorities have finalized the leadership appointments for the party, administration, and military for the next five years; they have also confirmed governance principles meant for addressing the situation and embarked on institutional reforms. They acknowledge the impact of "multiple unexpected factors" both internally and externally, including the international environment and COVID-19 pandemic. The economic growth target set for this year by the CCP suggests that the authorities' basic judgement of uncertainties in the external environment in the future and the severity of existing issues at home remains unchanged. Moreover, the CCP's increased emphasis on the escalating external pressure and containment reveals its sustained alertness to the external containment of mainland China's core technology development, its debts and financial risks, and insufficient innovation at home. Given the complexity and sensitivity of political and economic developments in mainland China and their influence on the situation in the region and the Taiwan Strait, the MAC will closely monitor and safeguard the situation to prevent various risks, including mainland China's strengthening of diplomatic obstruction, economic coercion, and united front campaigns against Taiwan, in order to safeguard national security and ensure sustainable development of Taiwan's economy.

3. Engaging in healthy and orderly exchanges, resuming scheduled and charter service to selected flight points

The president has reiterated that healthy and orderly cross-Strait exchanges will gradually resume. The premier has further called for rolling reviews of the Mini-three-links and flight points to facilitate cross-Strait travel by Taiwanese people. The MAC held consultation sessions with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC), Ministry of Health and Welfare, and other relevant agencies to make assessment and deliberate on factors including travel demand, pandemic risks, current state of cross-Strait exchanges, airline logistics and supporting measures, and international

practices. The comprehensive assessment involved premises of maintaining the 5 currently active flights routes (Beijing, Shanghai Hongqiao, Shanghai Pudong, Xiamen, and Chengdu) and keeping the COVID-19 pandemic under control. The assessment was also conducted under the principles of prioritizing cross-Strait business travel and travel in areas with the highest concentration rate of Taiwanese businesspeople, paving the way for the gradual expansion of flight point coverage, considering passenger-carrying capacity of airlines and balanced allocation of flights to each side of the Taiwan Strait. The decision made after the assessment was that, from March 10, 10 scheduled flight points would be reinstated (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chongqing, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Fuzhou, Qingdao, Wuhan, Ningbo, and Zhengzhou) and 13 charter flight points would be reopened (Tianjin, Shenyang, Wuxi, Xi'an, Changsha, Haikou, Wenzhou, Jinan, Guilin, Xuzhou, Dalian, Nanchang, and Hefei). Implementation of this plan will follow the announcement of details by the Civil Aeronautics Administration of the MOTC. Furthermore, a decision was made to reopen the Mini-three-links passenger transit service before the Tomb Sweeping Day. The MAC will announce detailed supporting measures in the coming days.

4. Caring for mainland Chinese, Hong Kong, and Macao residents living in Taiwan, upholding the rights and interests of Taiwanese people, and maintaining orderly exchanges

In tandem with the gradual easing of COVID-19 control measures, the government has restored normal entry procedures for mainland Chinese degree students and reopened for short-term students to study in Taiwan for exchange purposes. The MAC will also continue to care for the needs of mainland Chinese students in their studies, life, health, and other regards. In response to the CCP's stepped-up recruitment of Taiwanese students to study in mainland China, we will continue to alert students to the potential risks and provide detailed information to safeguard their rights and interests. In addition, we will continue improving the regulations for people from Hong Kong and

Macao to obtain short- and long-term residency in Taiwan. We also help Hong Kong residents seeking humanitarian aid live independently and self-reliantly in Taiwan, with related support services slated to be enhanced in the future. Furthermore, in late February this year, law enforcement agencies on both sides of the Taiwan Strait collaborated to repatriate from mainland China to Taiwan two wanted criminals involved in a Tainan shooting case. This was an example of the two sides working together to combat crime and maintain cross-Strait exchanges and social order.

II. Future Work Direction

1. Making assessment of the CCP's subsequent actions on Taiwan to safeguard Taiwan's overall interests

The CCP's policy actions towards Taiwan are influenced by regional affairs and developments in China-US relations. Recently, the Beijing authorities have intensified efforts to "oppose separation and foreign interference and promote integration and exchanges"; they have also been highlighting the political objective of advancing the unification process in their development strategy. Furthermore, the CCP has been forcefully conducting its cognitive warfare on the international community by ramping up the use of policies and laws under the fallacious "one China" principle that downgrades Taiwan. The goal of these actions is to alter public opinion and judgement on the situation in the Taiwan Strait, and to hamper international support for Taiwan. In response to the global community's call for "handling cross-Strait relations in a peaceful manner," the CCP has resorted to political, military, and economic coercion against Taiwan; intensified dual strategies of using a carrot-and-stick approach and fueling the debate of "peace or war"; and promotion of "consultation on unification" and "unification-aimed exchanges" on various cross-Strait exchange platforms and to various individuals. To address this issue, the MAC will continue to promote the government's policy and assess the completeness of our national security laws. We will prohibit actions detrimental to our national sovereignty, dignity, and security interests.

We will also thoroughly explain the CCP's political intention to our people and the international community. In addition, the relevant government units will carefully evaluate and assess future developments of the situation; closely follow the CCP's actions on Taiwan; strengthen risk management; and prevent the CCP's divisive united front tactics, intervention, and infiltration.

2. Establishment of a healthy and orderly exchange environment requires the joint efforts by both sides of the Taiwan Strait

In recent months, the government has steadily eased restrictions on the entry of mainland Chinese, Hong Kong, and Macao residents based on a comprehensive assessment that weighs the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic remains under control, the status of cross-Strait exchanges, and the rights and interests of Taiwanese people. We continue to closely monitor the state of cross-Strait interactions. Relevant agencies have deliberated on and assessed various aspects of exchanges such as resuming cross-Strait travel and transportation and preparing related supporting measures accordingly. Once the planning is completed, the government will announce these measures at an appropriate time to fulfill the rights and needs of the society and the people and show our utmost goodwill. Maintaining orderly cross-Strait interactions and exchanges requires joint efforts from both sides; therefore, on the premises of gradually restoring exchanges and enhancing mutual understanding, we urge the CCP to cast aside their political thinking and stop making hurdles in order to create opportunities for positive interactions.

3. Improving security management mechanisms for cross-Strait exchanges to ensure Taiwan's resilience in security

In response to the potential developments in future cross-Strait exchanges, the MAC has examined major exchange activities before and after the COVID-19 pandemic and enhanced management practices. We have deliberated on ways to strengthen security management for people-to-people

exchanges across the Taiwan Strait. We have also coordinated with relevant agencies to jointly deliberate and strengthen the review process, control measures, and effective policy implementation. Moreover, we have continued to conduct rolling reviews on relevant laws, regulations, and management measures to maintain the order of exchanges. The government will also reinforce policy explanations on safeguarding national security and alert the public and organizations to potential negative risks they may encounter during the exchanges. Additionally, the MAC established the “Online Registration System for Taiwanese Citizens Visiting Mainland China” earlier this year to provide better emergency services for Taiwanese people traveling to mainland China. Through this system, the government can get in immediate contact with these people and provide necessary assistance and services in case of emergencies.

III. Conclusion

Positive cross-Strait interactions are key to maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the region. They are in line with the interests and expectations of regional parties and constitute a shared responsibility of both sides. The government is committed to defending our national sovereignty, democracy, and the overall interests of Taiwan. The steady promotion of cross-Strait affairs is aligned with Taiwan’s public opinion and is the consensus of the ruling and opposition parties. Taiwan will not act provocatively; Taiwan is resilient and will not back down. We urge the Beijing authorities to not only engage in cross-Strait interactions with a rational, equal, and mutually respectful attitude but take a step further to seek pragmatic communication without preconditions in order to resolve the differences between the two sides. We hope that the other side across the Taiwan Strait can seize the opportunity of post-pandemic resumption of healthy and orderly cross-Strait exchanges and genuinely shoulder the responsibility of maintaining peace and bolstering the well-being of people on both sides.

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

members.