

Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on the "Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations"

(March 28 to 31 and April 2, 2018)

- More than 80% of the public approve the statement that, "Maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is the joint responsibility of both sides. Neither side should resort to non-peaceful or intimidating words or actions" (84.4%), and support the government's policy position that cross-Strait exchanges and activities should exclude political thinking, adhere to parity and dignity, and conform to legislation and regulations (82.2%).
- Nearly 90% of the public agree that cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation concern the rights and interests of the people and government authority and that the two sides should begin with communication and interaction (88.9%), over 70% of the public support the government's proposed initiatives to improve Taiwan's competitive advantage in response to the Taiwan-related measures adopted by mainland China (71.5%).
- 80% of the public agree with the view that "The two sides should engage in communication and dialogue without preconditions. This approach alone would be beneficial to the long-term development of cross-Strait relations" (80.9%), and support the government's position that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (85.6%)
- The great majority of the public (84.8%) still insist on "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense," a figure that has remained highly stable. On the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 34.7% of the public feel that the pace is "just right," while 9.3% and 43.4%, respectively, feel the pace is "too fast" and "too slow."

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand the views of the Taiwanese people on issues related to cross-Strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council commissioned the Election Study Center of National Chengchi University to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from March 28 to 31 and April 2, 2017. A total of 1,105 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.95% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy and issues of concern

Over 80% of the public approve the statement that, "Maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is the joint responsibility of both sides. Neither side should resort to non-peaceful or intimidating words or actions" (84.4%) and support the government's policy position that cross-Strait related exchanges and activities should exclude political thinking, adhere to parity and dignity, and conform to legislation and regulations (82.2%)

(2) Views on mainland China's Taiwan-related measures

Nearly 50% of the public approve the statement that, "The 31 Taiwan-related measures recently adopted by mainland China are intended to attract expertise, capital, and talent from Taiwan to support economic development in the Mainland and are part of the united front tactic to win over public sentiment in Taiwan" (49.2%), over 70% of the public support the government's proposed initiatives to strengthen talent incentives, promote industrial innovation and upgrading, and develop the cultural film and television industries to improve Taiwan's competitive advantage (71.5%), and nearly 70% of the public support the government's approach of improving legislation and regulations and strengthening protection measures and review mechanisms related to cross-Strait exchanges in the areas of investment, trade secrets, and personnel contacts (69.9%). Furthermore, nearly 90% of the

people approve the government's position that cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation concern the rights and interests of the people and government authority and that the two sides should begin with communication and interaction (88.9%).

(3) Views on Taiwan's international participation and the future of cross-Strait relations

More than 60% of the public approve the statement that, "mainland China's unilateral political agenda and efforts to suppress Taiwan's participation in international organizations and activities are not conducive to the healthy development of cross-Strait relations" (66.9%). Nearly 80% of the public approve the government's policy position of continuing to seek support in the international community for Taiwan's right of international participation (79.2%). Moreover, 80% of the public agree with the statement that, "Facing the new cross-Strait situation, The two sides should resolve their differences through communication and dialogue without preconditions. This approach alone would be beneficial to the long-term development of cross-Strait relations" (80.9%), and support the government's policy position that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (85.6%).

(4) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (84.8%) still support "maintaining the status quo defined in the broader sense" (including "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "maintaining the status quo and unification later," "maintaining the status quo and independence later," and "maintaining the status quo indefinitely"). Of the six possible positions, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (34.1%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (24.2%).

(5) Views on the pace of cross-Strait exchanges

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 34.7% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 9.3% and 43.4% believe it is "too fast" and "too slow," respectively.

(6) Public perception on the attitude of the Mainland government toward Taiwan

The percentage of the public believing that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the ROC government is "unfriendly" (57%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (24.2%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 45.3% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than the 40.9% believing it is friendly.