

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

(March 13~17, 2019)

- Nearly 80% of the public disapprove mainland China's "one country, two systems," under which Taiwan would become a local government and special administrative region and the Republic of China would no longer exist (79%). More than 80% of the public do not accept mainland China's refusal to renounce the use of force against Taiwan (83.9%).
- More than 70% of the public disapprove the Mainland government's demand that Taiwan accept its "one China principle" as a precondition to political negotiations (73%). More than 80% of the public approve the statement that, "If the two sides are to hold political consultations and sign agreements, the government should have more comprehensive legislative and supervisory mechanisms in place" (83.3%).
- More than 80% of the public support the government's position that cross-Strait related exchanges must be held with equality and dignity, without political preconditions, and in compliance with the law (83.9%); and that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (87.7%).
- A long-term stable trend can be seen where people in favor of "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad sense" still account for the great majority of the public (85.8%). As for views on the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 41.7% of the public believe it to be "just right,"

followed by the percentages believing the pace to be "too fast" and "too slow" at 11.9% and 32.3%, respectively.

## **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 the Taiwan Area from March 13 to 17, 2019. A total of 1,093 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.96% at a 95% level of confidence.

## **II. Major Findings**

### **(1) Views on mainland China's recent actions towards Taiwan**

Nearly 80% of the public disapprove mainland China's "one country, two systems," under which Taiwan would become a local government and special administrative region and the ROC government would no longer exist (79%). More than 60% of the public disapprove Beijing's approach to advancing unification by ruling out official dialogue and instead suggesting that political consultations be held with some political parties and individuals in Taiwan (63.7%). More than 80% of the public do not accept Xi Jinping's refusal to commit to renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and his repeated claims of military threats against Taiwan in the past (83.9%).

## **(2) Views on the government's establishment of mechanisms to defend democracy**

Nearly 50% of the public support the seven guidelines proposed by President Tsai Ing-wen at a National Security Meeting to counter the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan" and defend national sovereignty and Taiwan's democratic system (49.8%). More than 70% of the public disapprove the Mainland government's demand that Taiwan accept the "one China principle (i.e. the People's Republic of China)" as a precondition to political negotiations (73%). More than 60% of the public agree that the results of cross-Strait political negotiations need to be approved by the public through a referendum (65.4%), and nearly 60% think the results of cross-Strait political negotiations need to be deliberated and approved by the Legislative Yuan (59.3%). In addition, more than 80% of the public approve the statement: "If the two sides are to hold political consultations and sign agreements, the government should have more comprehensive legislative and supervisory mechanisms in place" (83.3%).

## **(3) Views on the future of cross-Strait relations**

More than 80% of the public support the government's position that cross-Strait related exchanges must be held with equality and dignity, without political preconditions, and in compliance with the law (83.9%). Over 70% of the public support the government's cooperation with other like-minded democracies to promote peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the larger region (74.1%). More than 80% of the public 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 (87.7%).

#### **(4) Views on unification and independence**

An overwhelming majority of the public (87.1%) still support "maintaining the status quo defined in the broader sense" (i.e. 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 options, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (31.7%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (25.3%).

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

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 41.7% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 11.9% and 32.3% believe it is "too fast" and "too slow," respectively.

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

A higher percentage of the public believe that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the government of the Republic of China is "unfriendly" (60.1%), with 23.7% consider as "friendly". Regarding the mainland

Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 45.6% of the public believe it is unfriendly, slightly higher than the 42.9% believing it is friendly.