

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

(March 19~23, 2021)

- Over 70% of the public support the President's emphasis that, while parity and dignity are maintained, the government is willing to facilitate meaningful dialogue with the Beijing authorities (75.6%). The public also support the government's hope that when the pandemic is under control, there will be a gradual return of regular, orderly exchanges across the Taiwan Strait. (81.8%)
- About 80% of the public support that relevant government agencies have already held discussion on a gradual resumption of post-pandemic cross-Strait exchanges (82.0%). Meanwhile, for the purpose of maintaining the order of cross-Strait exchanges, once the pandemic subsides, the public support the government to refer to the practices adopted by other countries to strengthen safety management for mainland Chinese visiting Taiwan (79.4%). The public also approve the government's position that regarding the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) suspension of pineapple imports from Taiwan, the two sides should resort to platforms of cross-Strait agreements for communication and resolve the problems pragmatically in order to safeguard the rights and interests of the people on both sides across the Taiwan Strait (81.9%).
- Nearly 90% of the public disapprove the CCP's "one country, two systems" model, which views Taiwan as a CCP-ruled local government and special administrative region and leaves no space for the existence of the Republic of China (ROC) (88.2%). Over 70% of the public do not identify with the CCP's insistence on adhering to the "one country, two systems," the "1992 Consensus" embodying the "one China" principle,

and its opposition to “Taiwan independence” (74.9%). The public support the government's approach of enhancing Taiwan's self-defense, rejecting the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan," and safeguarding national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (82.8%).

- More than 80% of the public support the position that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (84.7%). People in favor of "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad sense" still account for a great majority of the public (85.8%), maintaining a long-term stable trend. Regarding the current pace of cross-strait exchanges, 43.7% consider it "just right," while 7.5% and 32.6% believe it to be "too fast" and "too slow," respectively.

## **I. Survey Background and Methods**

In order 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 between March 19 and 23, 2021. The survey included adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan. A total of 1,078 valid samples were obtained, with a 95% confidence level and a sampling error of plus or minus 2.99%.

## **II. Major Findings**

### **(1) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy, interaction, and exchanges**

Over 70% of the public support President Tsai Ing-wen's emphasis that, as long as the Beijing authorities are determined to resolve antagonisms, while

parity and dignity are maintained, the government is willing to facilitate meaningful dialogue (75.6%). More than 80% of the public approve the President's reiteration of the government's hope that when the pandemic is under control, there will be a gradual return of regular, orderly people-to-people exchanges across the Taiwan Strait (81.8%). A similar percentage support the government's positive outlook on cross-Strait exchanges and the fact that government agencies have held discussion on a gradual resumption of post-pandemic cross-Strait exchanges (82.0%). Moreover, for the purpose of maintaining the order of cross-Strait exchanges, once the pandemic subsides and border reopens, the public support the government to refer to the practices adopted by other countries to strengthen safety management for mainland Chinese visiting Taiwan (79.4%). In addition, mainland China has recently, under the name of promoting integrated development of cross-Strait relations, been attracting Taiwanese people and enterprises to participate in its economic development. Over 70% of the public support the government's warnings of potential risks in making investment in mainland China (75.8%) Regarding the CCP's recent suspension of pineapple imports from Taiwan due to mealy bug quarantine issues, more than 80% of the public approve the government's stance that the two sides should resort to platforms of cross-Strait agreements for communication and resolve the problems pragmatically in order to safeguard the rights and interests of the people on both sides across the Taiwan Strait (81.9%).

## **(2) Views on mainland China's actions towards Taiwan and future cross-Strait relations**

Nearly 90% of the public disapprove the CCP's "one country, two systems" model, which views Taiwan as a CCP-ruled local government and special administrative region and leaves no space for the existence of the ROC (88.2%). Over 70% of the public do not identify with the CCP's insistence on adhering to the "one country, two systems," the "1992 Consensus" embodying the "one China" principle, and its opposition to "Taiwan independence" (74.9%).

Around 60% of the public support the MAC's recent reiteration of its stance that it respects the historical fact that in 1992, the two institutions representing each side across the Taiwan Strait, the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), arrived at various joint acknowledgments and understandings through communications and dialogue and in a spirit of seeking common ground while setting aside differences (61.1%). Regarding the CCP's recent passage of an overhaul of Hong Kong's electoral system that undermines the "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong, over 70% of the public support the government to call on the CCP to stop suppressing Hong Kong's democracy and freedom and maintain a high degree of autonomy in Hong Kong instead (75.5%). A similar percentage agree with the opinion that "repeated navigation drills conducted by the CCP military aircrafts and warships in areas around Taiwan with an aim of threatening Taiwan by force is unhelpful for the development of cross-Strait relations" (77.1%). Additionally, over 80% of the public support the government's approach of enhancing Taiwan's self-defense, rejecting the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan," and safeguarding national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (82.8%). A similar percentage also agree with 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 (84.7%).

### **(3) Views on unification or independence**

An overwhelming majority of the public (85.8%) continue to 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"). Among the six possible positions, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" and "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" enjoyed the highest level of support (28.1% and 27.3%), followed by "maintaining the status quo and independence later" (25.1%)

#### **(4) 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 7.2% and 32.7% believe it to be "too fast" and "too slow," respectively.

#### **(5) Public perception on the attitude of the mainland Chinese government toward the ROC**

The percentage of the public believing that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the ROC government is "unfriendly" (77.2%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (10.1%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwanese people, 60.6% of the public believe it is unfriendly, slightly higher than those believe it is "friendly" (25.6%).