

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

(October 19~23, 2023)

- Over 70% of the public support the "Four Commitments" reiterated by President Tsai in her National Day Address (74.5%). More than 80% of the public support the president's emphasis that "peace is the only option across the Taiwan Strait" (86.4%), that "While persisting in efforts to ensure our sovereignty, democracy, and freedom, we must be grounded in a respect for historical facts, and continue to construct peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations" (84.8%), and that "We are willing to take the Taiwan public consensus as a basis, conditioned with dignity and reciprocity, with a process of democratic dialogue, and centered on maintaining the status quo, to develop with the Beijing authorities a mutually acceptable foundation for interaction and a path to peaceful coexistence" (84.2%).
- Over 80% of the public support the government's position that the two sides across the Taiwan Strait should negotiate and resolve economic and trade disputes through existing mechanisms (80.0%). Over 70% of the public support the government's stance on negotiating and resolving trade disputes with mainland China under the mechanisms and regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) (76.6%); a similar percentage of respondents also support the government's formulation of response measures, such as assisting businesses in industrial upgrading processes and diversifying overseas markets (78.9%).
- Nearly 90% of the public support the government's continued efforts to build Taiwan's self-defense capabilities to maintain peace in the Taiwan Strait (89.6%). More than 80% of the public advocate for "maintaining the

status quo defined in a broader sense" (86.2%) and the position that Taiwan's future and the development of cross-Strait relations should be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (83.7%). More than 80% of the public disapprove of the continued operations of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) military aircraft and warships around Taiwan in an attempt to threaten the Taiwanese people by force (88.1%) and oppose the CCP's "one country, two systems" proposal (85.3%).

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 (MAC) commissioned the Election Study Center of National Chengchi University to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from October 19 to 23, 2023. A total of 1,077 valid samples were obtained, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.99% at a 95% confidence level.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on President Tsai's National Day Address

More than 70% of the public support the "Four Commitments" reiterated by the president in her National Day Address this year, namely: the commitment to a free and democratic constitutional system, the commitment that the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China should not be subordinate to each other, the commitment to resist annexation or encroachment upon our sovereignty, and the commitment that the future of the Republic of China (Taiwan) must be decided in accordance with the will of the Taiwanese people (74.5%). Over 80% of the public support the president's position that "peace is the only option across the Taiwan Strait" (86.4%), that "While persisting in efforts to ensure our sovereignty, democracy, and freedom, we must be grounded in a

respect for historical facts, and continue to construct peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations" (84.8%), and that "We are willing to take the Taiwan public consensus as a basis, conditioned with dignity and reciprocity, with a process of democratic dialogue, and centered on maintaining the status quo, to develop with the Beijing authorities a mutually acceptable foundation for interaction and a path to peaceful coexistence" (84.2%).

(2) Views on cross-Strait economic and trade exchanges and interactions, and the CCP's Taiwan work

Over 80% of the public support the government's position that since the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have signed various economic and trade agreements, they should negotiate and resolve economic and trade disputes through these existing mechanisms (80.0%). More than 70% of the public support the government's stance that given both sides of the Taiwan Strait are members of the WTO, Taiwan is willing to negotiate and resolve trade disputes with mainland China under the mechanisms and regulations of the WTO (76.6%). A similar percentage of the public support the government's formulation of responses to economic and trade pressure from mainland China, such as assisting businesses in the industrial upgrading processes and diversifying overseas markets (78.9%). More than 80% of the public disapprove of the CCP's "one country, two systems" proposal, which views Taiwan as a local government and special administrative region ruled by the CCP and leaves no space for the existence of the Republic of China (85.3%). The respondents also disapprove of the CCP military aircraft and warships not only operating around Taiwan but even intentionally crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait in an attempt to threaten the Taiwanese people by force (88.1%).

(3) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy

Nearly 90% of the public support the government's continued efforts to build Taiwan's self-defense capabilities to safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy while upholding a non-provocative cross-Strait policy stance to maintain the peaceful status quo in the Taiwan Strait (89.6%). 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 (83.7%). Nearly 70% of the public support that, for the purpose of maintaining the order of cross-Strait exchanges, the government should strengthen security management for mainland Chinese people coming to Taiwan as it promotes the gradual easing of its borders (69.5%).

(4) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (86.2%) continue to support "maintaining the status quo defined in a 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 indefinitely" and "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoyed the highest level of support (31.2% and 30.4%, respectively), followed by "maintaining the status quo and independence later" (18.9%). Less than 10% of the public supported "unification as soon as possible" or "declaring independence as soon as possible" (1.1% and 6.3%, respectively).

(5) Attitude of the mainland Chinese government toward the Republic of China, and the pace of cross-Strait exchanges

The percentage of the public believing that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the government of the Republic of China is "unfriendly" (68.8%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (13.8%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the

Taiwanese people, 52.6% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than those who believe it is "friendly" (30.7%). As for views on the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 37.0% of the public believe it to be "too slow," followed by the percentages believing the pace to be "just right" and "too fast" at 36.9% and 5.7%, respectively.