

Taiwan Public Opinion Supports President Lai's Inaugural Address on Cross-Strait Policy, Firmly Opposes CCP Exertion of Hybrid Pressure on Taiwan

MAC Press Release No. 029

May 30, 2024

Today (May 30, 2024), the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) announced the results of a recently conducted survey. The results indicate that the Taiwanese public broadly supports President Lai's cross-Strait policy stance as proposed in his inaugural speech. It also indicates that the public firmly opposes the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) exertion of hybrid pressure on Taiwan, which includes imposing the “one China” framework on Taiwan, obstructing Taiwan's participation in World Health Organization (WHO) activities, and employing various forms of military threats against Taiwan. The survey results reflect that mainstream public opinion in Taiwan recognizes the President's policy stance on the development of cross-Strait relations, and his firm determination to safeguard national sovereignty and the free and democratic constitutional system. In addition, mainstream public opinion also expresses a strong resentment towards the CCP's coercive actions and oppression of Taiwan.

The MAC stated that this survey investigated the public view of President Lai's inaugural address. Over 75% of respondents supported the President's emphasis on the new government upholding the “Four Commitments,” neither yielding nor provoking, and maintaining the status quo (75.1%). Nearly 80% supported the active promotion of the “Four Pillar of Peace Action Plan” (79.5%). Furthermore, more than 80% of respondents supported the President's assertions that the future of the Republic of China (Taiwan) will be decided by its 23 million people (88.5%), that all political parties ought to oppose annexation and protect sovereignty (83.0%), and that the President called for mainland China to

cease its military and political intimidation against Taiwan and uphold peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and in the greater region (85.0%). Continuing this trend, more than 80% of respondents supported the call for the CCP to face the reality of the Republic of China's existence, choose dialogue over confrontation, exchange over containment, and under the principles of parity and dignity, engage in cooperation with the legitimate government chosen by Taiwan's people (85.7%). Additionally, more than 80% of respondents supported such cooperation to start from the resumption of tourism on a reciprocal basis, and enrollment of degree students (mainland Chinese students) in Taiwanese institutions as a means to jointly pursue peace and mutual prosperity (80.2%).

The MAC pointed out that the survey also shows that the Taiwanese public firmly opposes the CCP's political claims and coercive actions. Over 75% of respondents did not agree with the CCP's claim that "mainland China and Taiwan both belong to one China, Taiwan is part of China, and Taiwan independence and foreign interference must be opposed" (76.6%), while nearly 90% of respondents opposed the CCP's long-term military threats, economic coercion, and efforts to lure our diplomatic allies into severing ties with us (89.0%). Respondents also opposed the continuous activities of the mainland Chinese military aircraft and warships around Taiwan, some even deliberately crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait (89.7%). On the issue of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) this year, nearly 80% of respondents did not agree with the CCP's claim that Taiwan's exclusion from World Health Organization (WHO) activities is due to its refusal to adhere to "the 1992 Consensus embodying the one China Principle" (78.8%), and nearly 90% of respondents supported the government's assertion that the same health rights enjoyed by other people around the world should be afforded to the Taiwanese people, and Taiwan should not be excluded from the WHO or any other global health systems (87.9%).

The MAC stressed that upholding peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait requires both sides to work together. The government will continue to steadily promote cross-Strait policies that are based on the mainstream public opinion in Taiwan, and are in accordance with the Republic of China's constitutional system. Furthermore, the MAC calls on mainland China to cease all irrational actions against Taiwan and to take to heart the goodwill expressed in President Lai's inaugural address. They should recognize the objective reality that “neither side of the Taiwan Strait is subordinate to the other,” and accept that the Taiwanese people are committed to their democratic values and way of life. This must be fully understood in order to create the conditions for positive interactions between the two sides.

The MAC commissioned Ipsos Limited to conduct a telephone survey of adults in Taiwan aged 20 and over from May 23 to May 26, 2024. A total of 1,073 valid samples were obtained, with a sampling error of $\pm 2.99\%$ at a 95% level of confidence.