

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

May 15~17, 2017

- Nearly 70% of the public support the government's commitment, since May 20, to a policy of maintaining the status quo of peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations (68.6%). More than 80% of the public approve the statement that, "Maintaining benign cross-Strait interaction is a mutual responsibility of the two sides. Neither side should resort to non-peaceful or intimidating remarks or actions" (83.9%).
- The vast majority of the public approve President Tsai Ing-wen's assertion that the cross-Strait relationship is an interactive process that cannot be unilaterally dominated by any one side and that the two sides should mutually build goodwill (77.9%), as well as support President Tsai's emphasis that mainland China should break away from its current mindset so the two sides can explore possible approaches for future cooperation (71.8%).
- 70% of the public support the government's approach of expressing dissatisfaction and protesting mainland China's politically-based obstruction of Taiwan's participation in the WHA (70.7%). More than 80% of the public think that the actions by mainland China are unhelpful to cross-Strait relations (81.7%), as well as approve the government's ongoing efforts to win support from the international community for Taiwan's participation in international organizations and activities (82.2%).
- The vast majority of the public (75.5%) support the government's handling of the future development of cross-Strait relations according to Taiwan's democratic institutions and public opinion. More than 80% (83%) approve the statement that, "Facing the new cross-Strait situation, mainland China should adopt new thinking, show goodwill and flexibility, and cooperate with Taiwan to jointly safeguard the peaceful and stable status quo of cross-Strait relations."

## 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 Taiwan Real Survey Co., Ltd. to conduct a telephone

survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from May 15 to 17, 2017. A total of 1,071 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.99% at a 95% level of confidence.

## **II. Major Findings**

### **(1) Views on recent developments in cross-Strait relations and the government's cross-Strait policy stance**

Nearly 70% (68.6%) of the public support the government's commitment since May 20 last year to a cross-Strait policy of maintaining the peaceful and stable status quo of cross-Strait relations. More than 80% (83.9%) of the public approve the statement that, "Maintaining benign cross-Strait interaction is a mutual responsibility of the two sides. Neither side should resort to non-peaceful or intimidating remarks or actions." Over 70% of the public approve President Tsai's assertion that the cross-Strait relationship is an interactive process that cannot be unilaterally dominated by any one side, and that the two sides should mutually build goodwill and advance cross-Strait relations (77.9%), as well support President Tsai's emphasis that, in the face of the changing situation, mainland China should break away from its current mindset so that the two sides can explore possible approaches for future cooperation (71.8%). Additionally, more than 75% (75.5%) of the public support the government's approach over the past year of actively maintaining existing cross-Strait communication and liaison mechanisms and repeatedly calling on the other side to start interaction and dialogue as soon as possible to resolve differences between the two sides. Furthermore, more than 80% (83.8%) of the public agree the statement that, "Officials on the two sides should negotiate and implement agreements to safeguard the rights and interests of the public." Over 65% (65.5%) of the public think that the government's strengthening of safety management for contact between the people of the two sides is conducive to maintaining the order of cross-Strait exchanges.

### **(2) Views on Taiwan's participation in the WHA this year and other issues related to international participation**

More than 70% (70.7%) of the public support the government's approach of expressing deep dissatisfaction and protesting mainland China's politically-based obstruction of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) this year. More than 80% of the public think the obstruction by mainland China is unhelpful to cross-Strait relations (81.7%), as well as approve the position that Taiwan's participation in international organizations and activities concerns the rights and safety of the

public of Taiwan and the government's position on continuing, in the face of pressure from mainland China, to seek support in the international community for Taiwan's participation (82.2%).

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

More than 70% (75.5%) of the public support the government's handling of the future development of cross-Strait relations according to Taiwan's democratic institutions and public opinion. More than 80% (83.0%) of the public think that, facing the new cross-Strait situation, mainland China should adopt new thinking, show goodwill and flexibility, and cooperate with Taiwan to jointly safeguard the peaceful and stable status quo of cross-Strait relations.