

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

(September 2~6, 2021)

- More than 80% of the respondents disapprove the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) "one country, two systems" proposal, 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) (87.5%). Similar percentages oppose the CCP's obstruction of Taiwan's international participation (89.4%) and its pressure campaigns against Lithuania through diplomatic and economic means in a show of opposition to Taiwan's establishment of a Taiwanese representative office in Lithuania (88.8%). The public also support the government's approach of enhancing Taiwan's self-defense capabilities, rejecting the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan," and safeguarding national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (82.8%).
- Over 70% of the public oppose the CCP's fearmongering in the wake of developments in Afghanistan through propagating the view that US security commitments to Taiwan are unreliable and that the US could abandon Taiwan (70.4%). More than 80% of the public support President Tsai Ing-wen's emphasis that Taiwan's only option is to become stronger, more united, and more determined to defend itself (83.9%). A similar percentage support the government's approach of strengthening national security and self-defense capabilities while it bolsters cooperation with the US (81.3%). The public also support the government to continue working with like-minded countries to ensure the peaceful and stable status quo in the Taiwan Strait (88.6%).

- Around 60% of the respondents support the government's announcement of law amendments to tighten restrictions on travel to mainland China by those who possess or have access to national security related core technologies (64.2%). A similar percentage support the government to conduct strict review of entry permit applications by mainland Chinese personnel to safeguard national security once the pandemic abates and Taiwan's border re-opens (64.0%).
- More than 80% of the public support the position that the future of Taiwan and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by Taiwan's 23.5 million people (85.1%). People in favor of "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad sense" still account for the great majority of the public (85.4%), maintaining a long-term stable trend. Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 41.8% feel the pace to be "just right," while 7.7% and 32.7% 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 September 2 and 6, 2021. The survey included adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan. A total of 1,073 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

Mainland China has been seeking to attract and win over high-tech talent in Taiwan, affecting the development of Taiwan's tech industry and endangering national security. In light of this situation, over 60% of the respondents support the government's announcement of law amendments to tighten restrictions on travel to mainland China by those who possess or have access to national security related core technologies (64.2%). When the pandemic abates and Taiwan's border reopens, a similar percentage support the government to conduct strict review of entry permit applications by mainland Chinese personnel to safeguard national security and reduce China's united front work against and infiltration of Taiwan (64.0%).

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

More than 80% of the respondents disapprove the CCP's "one country, two systems" proposal, which views Taiwan as a CCP-ruled local government and special administrative region and leaves no space for the existence of the

ROC (87.5%). Nearly 90% of the public disapprove the CCP's long-time diplomatic suppression of Taiwan and obstruction of Taiwan's participation in international organizations or holding international events (89.4%). A similar percentage of the public disapprove the CCP's recent pressure campaigns against the Lithuanian government through diplomatic, economic, and other means in a show of opposition to Taiwan's establishment of a Taiwanese representative office in Lithuania (88.8%). The US announced that it would hold a democracy summit at year end and invite leaders of democracies, an event which Taiwan also seeks to participate. A high percentage of the public disapprove mainland Chinese public opinion's opposition of Taiwan's attendance to this event (90.2%). Around 70% of the public approve the statement that, "CCP military aircraft and warships continuing to conduct drills around Taiwan in an attempt to threaten Taiwan militarily. This is unhelpful for the development of cross-Strait relations" (70.0%).

About 70% of the public oppose the CCP's fearmongering in the wake of developments in Afghanistan through propagating the view that US security commitments to Taiwan are unreliable and that the US could abandon Taiwan (70.4%). More than 80% of the public support President Tsai's emphasis that Taiwan's only option is to become stronger, more united, and more determined to defend itself (83.9%). The Biden administration of the US continues to express support for Taiwan and stresses that it will honor its commitments to Taiwan. More than 80% of the public support the government's approach of strengthening national security and self-defense capabilities as it bolsters cooperation with the US (81.3%). The US, Japan, EU, and other countries have repeatedly mentioned the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Nearly 90% of the public support the government's continued cooperation with like-minded countries to ensure the peaceful and stable status quo of in the Taiwan Strait (88.6%). Furthermore, over 80% of the public support the government's approach of enhancing Taiwan's self-defense capabilities, rejecting the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan," safeguarding national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (82.8%), and its proposition that the future of Taiwan and the

development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by Taiwan's 23.5 million people (85.1%).

(3) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (85.4%) 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 indefinitely" and "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoyed the highest level of support (30.4% and 28.1%, respectively), followed by "maintaining the status quo and independence later" (21.9%)

(4) Views on the pace of cross-Strait exchanges

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 41.8% of the public believe the pace to be "just right," while 7.7% 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" (73.0%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (12.4%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwanese people, 57.9% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than those believe it is "friendly" (29.1%).