

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

(March 16~20, 2023)

- Over 80% of the public disagree with the "one country, two systems" proposed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), 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 (83.6%); disagree that "Taiwan is part of the sacred territory of the People's Republic of China" (81.7%); and disapprove of the CCP's repeated poaching of Taiwan's diplomatic allies through economic inducement and oppose its obstruction of Taiwan's international participation (84.3%). Over 70% of the public disagree with the CCP's emphasis on positions including fully implementing the "Overall Strategy for Resolving the Taiwan issue," adhering to the "one China" principle and the "1992 Consensus," opposing foreign interference and "Taiwan independence" separatist activities, and promoting unification (75.5%).
- More than 80% of the public support the government's proposition that cross-Strait exchanges and interaction should be conducted based on the spirit of equality, dignity, and relevant laws and regulations in order to mitigate the effect of the CCP's united front work and infiltration (85.5%). A similar percentage of the public approve of the government's gradual resumption of healthy and orderly cross-Strait exchanges in consideration of the increasing stability of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the state of cross-Strait interaction, and calls from the public to conduct trade and other activities (83.7%). About 80% of the public support the recent reopening of some flight points for cross-Strait passenger service and charter flights (79.6%) and welcome the recent resumption of passenger transits via the Mini-three-links (80.1%). A similar percentage of the public

support the government's approach of strengthening safety management of mainland Chinese residents seeking to enter Taiwan as it adjusts its border control measures (78.6%).

- People in favor of "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense" still account for the great majority of the public (88.9%). Nearly 90% of the public support the government's consistent efforts to enhance self-defense capabilities in order to safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (88.4%). Over 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 (85.1%). Nearly 80% of the public agree that the objective truth of cross-Strait status quo is that "the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China are not subordinate to each other" (78.6%).

## **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 March 16 to 20, 2023 . A total of 1,072 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 the CCP's Taiwan-related remarks at the "Two Sessions" and its recent actions against Taiwan**

Over 80% of the public disagree with the "one country, two systems" proposed by the CCP, 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 (83.6%); disapprove of the CCP's repeated poaching of Taiwan's diplomatic allies through economic inducement and oppose its obstruction of Taiwan's international participation (84.3%); and disapprove of the statement made by the CCP Foreign Minister that, according to mainland China's Constitution, "Taiwan is part of the sacred territory of the People's Republic of China" (81.7%). Over 70% of the public disagree with the CCP's emphases on fully implementing the "Overall Strategy for Resolving the Taiwan Issue," adhering to the "one China" principle and the "1992 Consensus," opposing foreign interference and "Taiwan independence" separatist activities, and promoting unification (75.5%). A similar percentage of the public agree with the statement that "The relentless operation of CCP military aircraft in areas surrounding Taiwan has undermined cross-Strait and regional peace and stability" (72.1%).

## **(2) Views on cross-Strait exchanges and interaction after the COVID-19 pandemic**

More than 80% agree with the statement that "The two sides of the Taiwan Strait should interact with each other in the spirit of rationality, equality, and mutual respect; furthermore, the two sides should strive to resolve our differences through dialogues without any political preconditions" (85.6%); support the government's position that cross-Strait exchanges and interaction should be conducted based on the spirit of equality, dignity, and relevant laws and regulations in order to mitigate the effect of the CCP's united front work and infiltration (85.5%); and approve of the government's gradual resumption of healthy and orderly cross-Strait exchanges in consideration of the increasing stability of the COVID-19 pandemic situation on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, the state of cross-Strait interaction, and calls from the public to conduct trade and other activities (83.7%). About 80% of the public support the government's recent reopening of some flight points for cross-Strait passenger service and charter

flights in consideration of cross-Strait travel demand, risks of the pandemic, the state of cross-Strait exchanges, and airline logistics and groundwork (79.6%) and welcome the recent resumption of passenger transits via the Mini-three-links (80.1%). A similar percentage of the public support the government's approach of strengthening safety management of mainland Chinese residents seeking to enter Taiwan as it adjusts its border control measures in order to maintain the order of exchanges (78.6%). Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 39.4% of the public believe the pace to be "just right," while 5.6% and 34.3% believe it to be "too fast" and "too slow," respectively.

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

Nearly 80% of the public agree that the objective truth of cross-Strait status quo is that "the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China are not subordinate to each other" (78.6%). Over 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 (85.1%). Nearly 90% of the public support the government's consistent efforts to enhance self-defense capabilities in order to safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (88.4%).

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

An overwhelming majority of the public (88.9%) 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 (32.1% and 31.3%, respectively), followed by "maintaining the status quo and independence later" (18.9%).

#### **(5) Attitude of the mainland Chinese government toward the Republic of China**

The percentage of the public believing that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the government of the Republic of China is "unfriendly" (70.7%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (12.4%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwanese people, 51.1% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than those believe it is "friendly" (33.0%).